



WORLD HERITAGE DAY



**SULTAN ZAIN-UL-ABDIN,
"THE BUDSHAH"
OF
KASHMIR**



GOVERNOR
JAMMU & KASHMIR



RAJ BHAVAN
JAMMU-180001

March 8, 2008.

MESSAGE

I am delighted to know that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is bringing out a journal "Budshah Day" to commemorate this year's World Heritage Day on 18 April, 2008. Indeed, this will be a befitting tribute to the 15th Century King, who is still fondly remembered as a most tolerant and secular King of Kashmir. Though five centuries have elapsed, yet Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin is remembered with a sense of gratitude and esteem by the people of Kashmir, as the benevolent king, who had a burning desire to improve the lot of mankind irrespective of religion. The great king ushered in a period of about half a century of peace and benevolent rule besides introducing crafts and promoting art and music in his Kingdom.

I pay my tribute to the memory of great King and appreciate the endeavours of Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums for bringing out a journal in his memory.

(Lt Gen (Retd) S K Sinha, PVSM)



Ghulam Nabi Azad

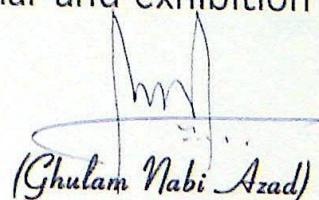


CHIEF MINISTER
Jammu and Kashmir
Srinagar

MESSAGE

I am happy to know that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar is organizing one day seminar and exhibition on the eve of the World Heritage Day on 18th April, 2007 in SPS Museum, Lalmandi Srinagar. The topic "Sultan Zainul Abidin – the Budshah of Kashmir" suggested for the seminar is admirable. Budshah is known for his secular approach and administrative acumen.

I wish the seminar and exhibition a success.



(Ghulam Nabi Azad)

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Muzaffar Hussain Baig



Deputy Chief Minister
Planning & Development, Law &
Parliamentary Affairs, Tourism

D.O. No. : _____

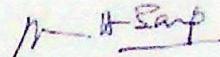
Dated: 12-03-2008

MESSAGE

It gives me immense pleasure to know that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is publishing a journal on Budshah. Kashmir attained the peak of its glory during the period of Sultan Zainul Abedin (1420 to 1470 A.D). No wonder, he continues to live in the hearts of people as Budshah.

Sultan Zainul Abedin was a real king who left deep impression not only on his own time but on the history as it evolved after him. He set new standards of governance in Kashmir and brought in fresh and energizing ideas of prosperity, social justice and communal harmony. His intervention in the economic development of Kashmir has had an abiding effect.

Publication of this journal is, of course, a good beginning. I hope it proves the important first step to commemorate Budshah in a manner that is worthy of his stature and grandeur.


(M.H. Baig)

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Gulchain Singh Charak



MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION,
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Jammu & Kashmir Govt.
Jammu Srinagar

No. 1 PSHM/Hr/Edu/2008
Dated : 3 - 3 - 2008

MESSAGE

I am delighted to know that Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir is publishing a brochure on Zain-ul-Abdin Budshah in connection with World Heritage Day celebrations.

Jammu & Kashmir State has produced great legends who played vital role in reconstruction of State communal harmony and secular character. Maharaja Ashoka, Lalitaditya, Budshah and Maharaja Gulab Singh are such few historical legends.

It is a welcome step that the Department is not only taking care of composite cultural heritage of the State but at the same time celebrates days in memory of great kings of Kashmir. On this occasion I appreciate the efforts of the Departmental Officers for publishing brochures and making people conscious about their historical legends. I wish all the success.


(Gulchain Singh Charak)



Tariq Hameed Karra



MINISTER FOR
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Jammu and Kashmir

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MESSAGE

The department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums deserves to be appreciated for coming up with a magazine on Zain-ul-Abdin popularly known as "Budshah". A statesman of 15th Century whose policy was based on public welfare. Budshah was popular because of his policy of harmony and tolerance which he had shown in dealing with the people of various faiths.

The department has made a fine tribute to this great ruler of Kashmir for celebrating world "Heritage Day" in his name with the intention to exhibit his contribution to the society at large. Since the department is the repository of our heritage maintaining Books, Monuments as well as rare manuscripts, the department must come up with regular publications in this regard as well so that our young generation keeps itself aware of our past history.

Tariq Hameed Karra

(Tariq Hameed Karra)

The University of Kashmir



VICE-CHANCELLOR



UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
HAZRAJAT
SRINAGAR-JAMMU

A WORD

It gives me pleasure to know that the Department of Archives Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar is organizing a one day seminar and exhibition on 'Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, "The Budshah" of Kashmir on the eve of world Heritage Day.

These historical seminars and exhibitions do play a pivotal role in regenerating and rekindling mass interest in the survival of the art and culture. All the efforts made by the Archaeological Department in this connection are recordable and worth appreciation. I am of firm belief that these seminars and exhibitions will prove fruitful and may help the people to know about the history and legendary figures of history besides increasing enthusiasm to envision the glorious past. The heritage, for which we have all along been praised through out the world, will foster a sense of pride in the citizenry of our state.

I wish the Department all the best and success to the programme.

(Prof. Abdul Wahid)



Pramod Jain
IAS



Commissioner & Secretary to Government,
Higher & Technical Education Department,
Jammu & Kashmir

No
Dated



MESSAGE

It is nice to learn that Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir is publishing a brochure on Zain-ul-abdin Badshah in connection with World Heritage Day celebrations.

Preserving heritage of the State and its historical legends is the responsibility of the Department for which the Department has been created way back, keeping in view, the varied and composite heritage of the state and the contribution of historical legends towards its enrichment is to be explored and endorsed.

I congratulate the Department of Archives Archaeology & Museum, Kashmir for holding of seminars, exhibitions and publishing brochures on historical legends of the State. The brochure titled Badshah is very informative wherein the notes and photograph of Archaeological, Numismatic and Archival Artifact pertaining to Badshah period has been mentioned in a wonderful order. It is most attractive and informative brochure which I think would increase our knowledge about Badshah period which has been called as the golden period. I hope the departmental officer will continue their services for up keeping of states priceless heritages and historical legends.

Pramod Jain
Pramod Jain (IAS)

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Basharat Ahmad Dhar, IAS



*visional Commissioner
Kashmir.*

D. O. No.:

Dated :

A Word

It gives me pleasure to know that the department of Archives Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar is organizing a one day **Seminar and Exhibition** on **Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin "The Budshah"** of Kashmir on the eve of **World Heritage Day** which is being celebrated at the global level, on **18th April 2007**.

The historical seminars and exhibitions will prove fruitful and help the people to know about our history, historical facts and also cultural heritage.

I wish the programme success.

**Basharat Ahmad Dhar,
I.A.S.**



Mehboob Iqbal (IAS)



*Divisional Commissioner
Kashmir*

M E S S A G E

It gives me extreme pleasure that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir has, for the first time, organised a Seminar and Exhibition on "**Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin**" popularly known as "**Budshah**".

Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, the Budshah, has been a great king of Kashmir who ruled in 15th Century. He has been the historic legend whose contribution towards Kashmir's secular character and artistic traditions were outstanding.

It is worthwhile to know that the Archaeology Department is going to publish a Brochure in the near future which ^{will} highlight the role of **Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin**. Publishing of Brochures and holding Seminars on great historic legends is a welcome step. It would be proper if in future the Department takes into account the role of other historical legends as well.

Furthermore, celebration of "**World Heritage Week**" and the allied functions by the Archaeological Department is also a praise-worthy step.

(Mehboob Iqbal IAS
Divisional Commissioner,
Kashmir)



Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal

Ph.D.

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"There is no compulsion in religion. Truth stands out clear from error. Whoever rejects evil and believes in Good has grasped the most trustworthy hand-hold, that never breaks, and God hears and knows all things."

(Al-Qur'an 2: 256)

Dated: 9 April, 2007.

M E S S A G E

It is heartening to hear that the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, is about to organise a Seminar (cum-Exhibition) on a very vital subject connected with our past glory, namely, the illustrious reign of Sultan Zain-ul-'Abidin (1420-70 A.D.), popularly known as Budshah. In fact, for the students of History, while the theme is most inspiring, the period of Shahmiri Sultans of Kashmir itself conveys essential and lasting lessons in human reconstruction which is so much needed today. Inspiring it is because of the spiritual and cultural achievements of an Era when the star of the fateful Sultanate was in the ascendant. Secondly, from the vivacious part of its history only those people will receive guidance who seriously ponder the reasons of the successes and failures of the particular Sultans.

Nevertheless, apart from the missionary role of Sayyid Ali Hamadani and his son, Mir Muhammad Hamadani (Allah bless their souls), the sum-total of the contribution of the Shahmiri dynasty is in essence symbolised by the positive aspects of the reign of Zain-ul-'Abidin. His enriching legacies in terms of administrative justice, promotion of arts, architecture and industry, indiscriminate patronage of learning and the learned, and his public reforms in various domains of the society, are certainly great, unforgettable and worthy of emulation. If only, we were to properly study and evaluate Budshah's illustrious Rule, it might help usher in a true renaissance of the legatees concerned, leading further to a general awakening and enlightenment of an aspirant community that still gratefully remembers the magnanimous Sultan with due honour and esteem he deserves most among the rulers of yore.

Accordingly, I hardly doubt the value and importance of the Seminar proposed by the Department to focus attention on a frequently celebrated Sultan. I should congratulate the organisers for their resolve and hope that the discussions on the auspicious occasion will enhance true interest in identifying the way toward preserving and reviving our past heritage. I wish the originators of the refreshing programme a lasting success in their endeavours attended with fervour, dedication and devotion.

Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal, Ph.D.

Formerly:

Visiting Asian Professor to U.S.,
and,
Director, Libraries, Research, Museums & Archaeology, J&K.



Mohammad Shafi Zahid

Deputy Director

Archives, Archaeology and Museums
Kashmir Province

PREFACE

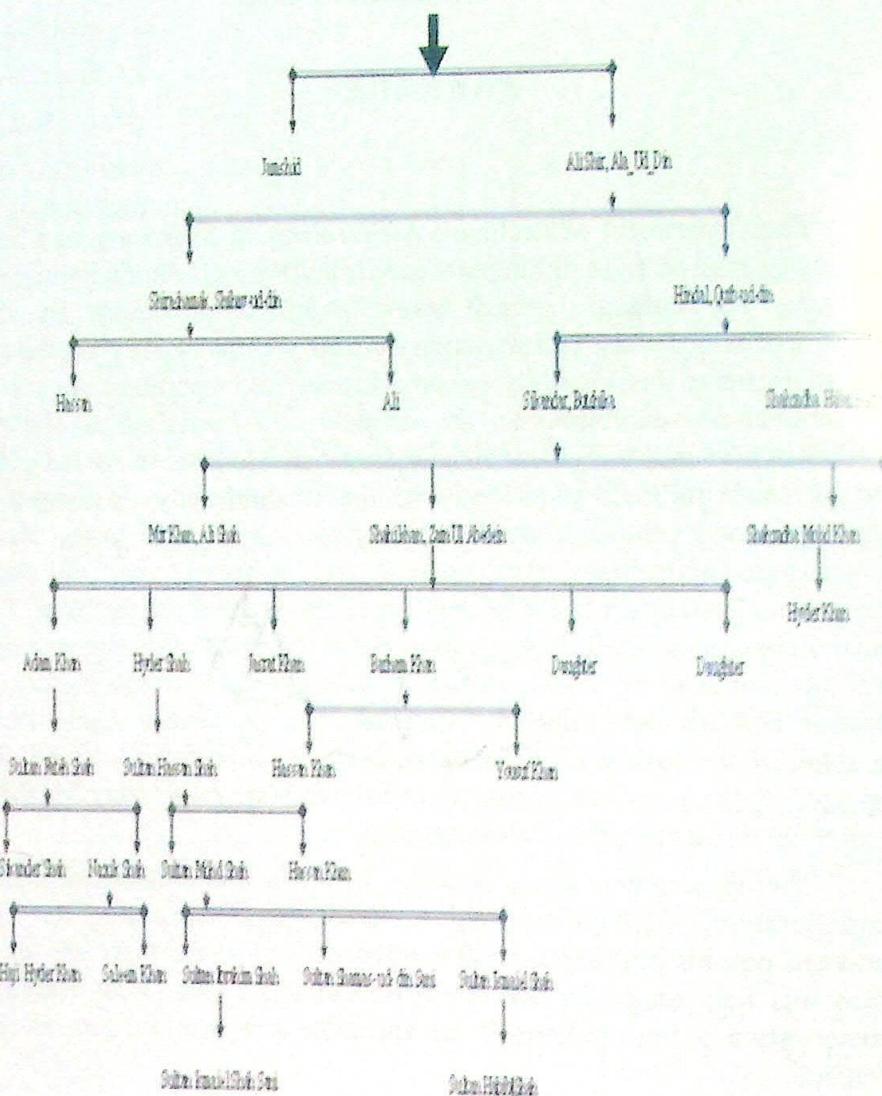
The Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, has been organizing seminars and exhibitions related to culture and cultural heritage of the State. The cultural heritage week organized previously by this Department gained praise and attraction from all over the country. On the eve of World Heritage Day, the advisory committee of this Department suggested that seminar-cum-exhibition on the theme “Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin - Budshah of Kashmir” be held at Srinagar. Budshah, The kind and pious King, who ruled Kashmir for 51 years forged the much needed unity and communal harmony among various sections and religious sects of the times. He is known as the founder of modern Kashmir and for his reforms, communal harmony, national integrity and benevolence. He is called “Akbar Sani” The Social, Economical and Cultural Developments got boosted during his reign made his period to be known as the “**Golden Period**” in the history of Kashmir. The Arts and Crafts, the awakening, developments in Agricultural are some of the hallmarks of his period. He is remembered, loved and respected by the people of Jammu and Kashmir State even today for these unparalleled achievements and contributions.

The appreciation letters received from various eminent scholars, Administrators, Heritage lovers, Archaeologists, Museologists and renowned persons praising the different aspects of world Heritage week which was held on 19-25 Nov 2006 on the topic Our Great Heritage “**preservation a big challenge**” are appended herewith for record and reference.

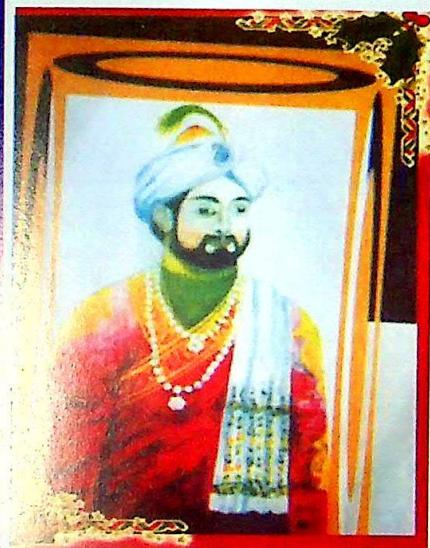
The proposed seminars will unveil all the realties of this great legendry king of the Kashmir. We all are duty bound to preserve the culture and cultural heritage of this land so that the coming generations may feel proud of it and go ahead on the footsteps of their ancestors.

GENEALOGICAL CHART OF SHAH MIR DYNASTY

SHAH MIR SHAMAS UD DIN



SULTAN ZAIN UL ABDIN, THE BUDSHAH OF KASHMIR



Founder of Arts, Crafts, Music and Fine Arts.

Shahmiri royal family. He was the only King of Kashmir who happened to be a great poet, philosopher, linguist and promoter of arts and crafts. He wrote two books in Persian.

Zain-ul-Abidin had three wives, two from Jammu, having four sons Adam Khan, Haji Khan, Jasarat Khan and Bahram Khan. Zain-ul-Abidin had married Makhdooma Khatun. She was the daughter of Syed Mohd Bhaihaki, the chief of Bhaihaki Syeds. He remained so much devoted to her that when she died in 1465 AD, he lived in loneliness and in a distressed condition. Makhdoom Khatun is buried in a graveyard near the shrine of Bahauddin Ganj Baksh, Srinagar Kashmir.



Eternal Resting place of the Badshah

PATRON OF ART & CRAFTS

Syed Ali Hamdani, (RA) the learned saint who visited Kashmir in late 14th century for propagation of Islam, brought with him over seven hundred disciples. Some of them were mostly skilled craftsman. They also brought with them their own life styles, language, dress patterns, food habits etc. which subsequently got social acceptance in the valley of Kashmir.

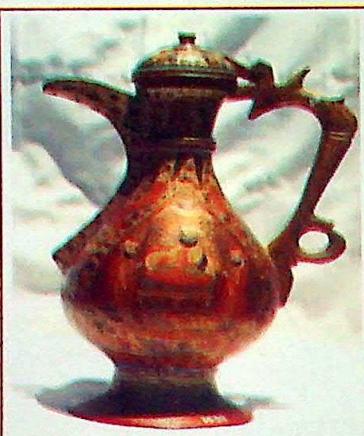
The cultural contacts between Central Asia and Kashmir increased during the reign of Budshah as he had witnessed the glory of Central Asia personally, during his stay in Samarkund

for 8

years. He was deeply impressed with the work of craftsmen there. On his return to Kashmir and after ascending the throne, Budshah invited artisans and craftsmen from Central Asia and Persian to this place. He offered them good prospects and concessions to settle down in Kashmir and also deputed some intelligent persons from among his own subjects to learn arts and crafts in such culturally rich centers of Central Asia.

Some of the Central Asian arts of the times that were popularized in Kashmir include:-

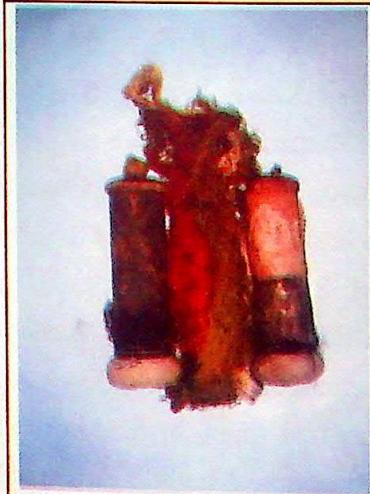
wood carving, paper machie, shawl weaving, carpentry, stone polishing, stone cutting, glass blowing, window cutting, Gold and silver leaf making, book binding, silk shawl



Paper machie teapot bearing influence of Persia.



Canopy of Badshah.



Magasrani of Badshah's Parents.

and carpet weaving.

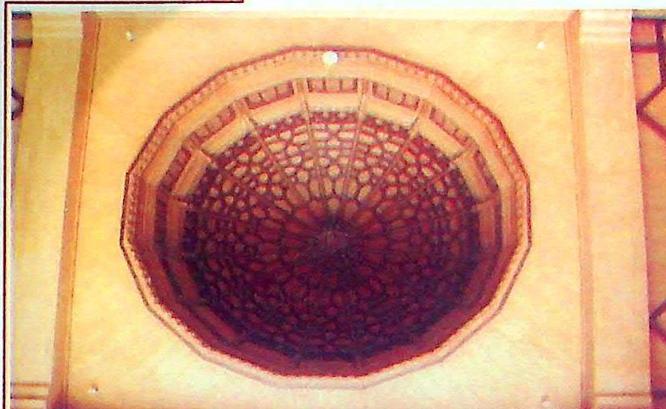
These were introduced under his fostering care in the valley of Kashmir. Canopy of Zain ul Abdin which is in silken material is a proof which substantiates this claim.



Kanni Shawl.



Paper machie



Khatam Band Wood work on ceiling

A BUILDER OF MOSQUES AND SHRINES



Jamia Masjid with unique Architectural features

This Mosque was built by Sultan Sikander, father of Budshah. Its foundation was laid in 1398.A.D. It was later on remodeled by his successor and son, Zain-ul-AbidIn. He also established an Islamic School wherein Arabic, Sanskrit, and Persian were taught to the students. He also constructed four tall minars of this grand mosque and expanded compound of the mosque 254x334 feet's long, planted the Chinar trees around it.

Lover of Sufis and Saints

Budshah was not patron of Arts and crafts only but a great patron of men of letters and musicians. His court was thronged by saints, scholars, poets and musicians to whom he gave great respects and regards. It was during his reign that there was economic prosperity, political stability and sense of security in Kashmir. This attracted men of letters to this place. Sheikh Noor- ud- Din Reshi, Bahu- ud- din Ganj Baksh and Syed Mohammad Madani were amongst the great Saint of the time. He was the believer of saints and ascetics and profited himself with their day to day association. He was a disciple of these saints and scholars and constructed some Shrines and Mosques in their name. These are now looked after by the Department of Archives Archaeology & Museums, as some of these stand declared as state protected monuments.

TOMB OF BUDSHAH'S MOTHER MAHRAJ GUNJ, SRINAGAR

This 15th century monument is situated on the bank of River Jehlum near Zainakadal in downtown Srinagar. It is the tomb of Sultan Zain-ul-AbidIn's mother Miradevi. The Sultan constructed it in 1465 A.D. Some



Persian inscription about the foundation wall of Sultans maazari salaateen

believe it was constructed by budshah's father. To its North, the tomb has a burial ground called Mazaar-e-Salateen, where King Zain-ul-Abdin, his parents, Mirza Hyder Dughlat and other historical personalities of Kashmir are lying buried. It is a remarkable example of Shahmiri architecture. This is protected monument and is being looked after by Archaeological Survey of India.

MOSQUE AND SHRINE OF SHEIKH UL ALAM SHEIKH NOOR-UD-DIN NOORANI (Ra) CHARAR I-SHARIEF

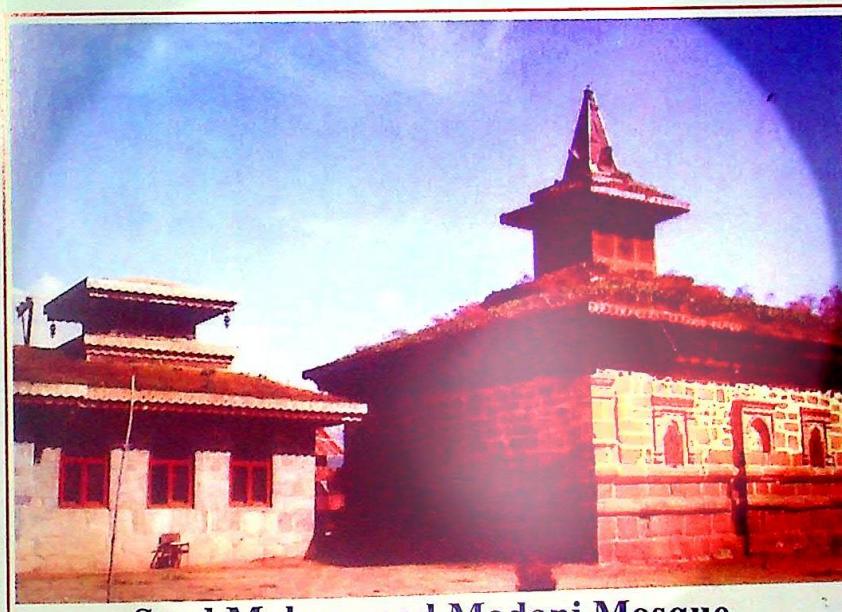
This structure lies at about 28 Kms South West of Srinagar in the Chrar village on the road to Yusmarg. It is the shrine or "Ziarat" of Noor-ud-Din Reshi, popularly known as Nund Reshi, Sheikh-ul-Alam(RA) or Alamdar-e-Kashmir. Zain-ul-Abideen constructed this shrine on the burial site of Sheikh-ul-Alam and attended himself the burial prayers.



Originally built by Badshah, it was a wooden structure.

SYED MOHAMMAD MADANI MOSQUE HAWAL, SRINAGAR.

Syed Mohammad Madani, was a foreign envoy priest and came from Madina Saudia Arabia during the reign Sultan Skindar as an ambassador from the ruler of that country. He was a great scholar who lived in Kashmir during the reign of Sultan Sikander. However, he died during Budshah's rule, who built this tomb in his memory. It is an example of the pre-Mughal style of Kashmiri architecture. It was adorned with glazed tiles which are not seen anywhere in the sub continent and the Department is paying every attention towards preservation/restoration of this monument and to develop it as one of the centers of cultural pilgrimage.



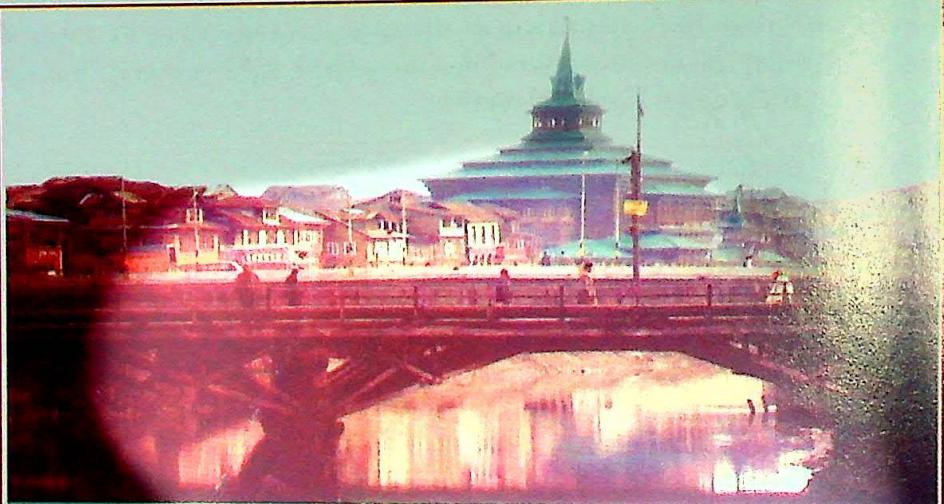
Syed Mohammad Madani Mosque

VISIONARY OF AGRARIAN REFORMS

Kashmiris are mostly rice eaters. For cultivation of rice irrigation is indispensable. Budshah repaired old canals and dug out new ones which irrigated arid regions as well. Some of them have been sites of historical importance till this date and some of the canals fell into disuse after the introduction of modern technology. The Shah Kul, Zaingir canals etc. dug out in his time continues, till this date are put to use for the purposes of irrigation in Anantnag District of South Kashmir as well as North Kashmir respectively.

ROAD CONNECTIVITY ENGINEER

Budshah personally supervised the construction of several bridges for the convenience of the people. The Zaina Kadal Bridge was constructed during his time in his name and several other bridges like Fateh Kadal by Fath-i-Shah, Ali Kadal and Aali Masjid during the period of Sultan Ali Shah came into existence in the reign of shahmir dynasity.



An exemplary proof of Engineering of Badshah's Period

Foundation stone of an island raised in Wular Lake by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in 847 Hijrah, when he was at the zenith of his power and prestige. The translation of the quatrain reads:

May this edifice lie as firm as the foundations of the Heaven

May it be the most renowned ornament of the Universe.



Foundation stone of an island raised in Wular Lake by Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin in 847 Hijrah, when he was at the zenith of his power and prestige. The

SCHOLARLY PURSUITS

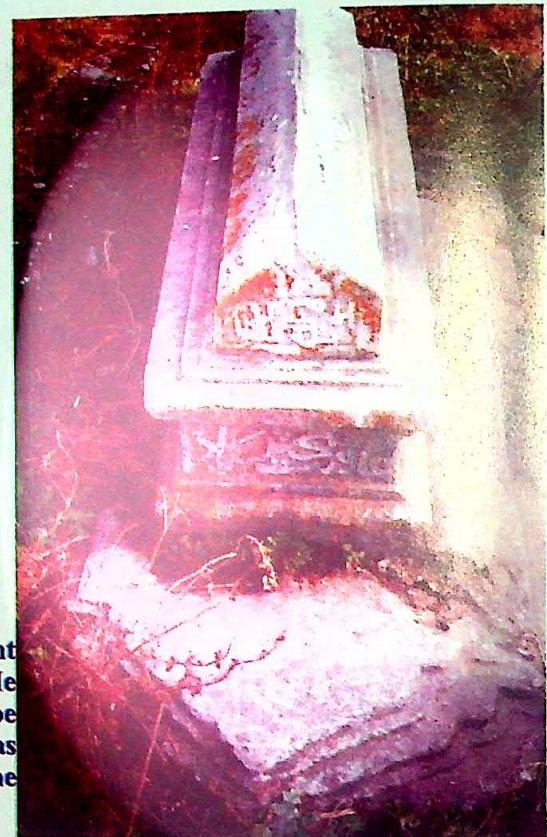
The Sultan founded Bureau of Translation where Sanskrit books on different subjects were translated into Persian. Mulla Ahmad translated Mahabharata, Dasavtara and Raj-Tarangani into Persian and likewise Persian books written in Kashmiri and imported from Iran and Central Asia, were translated into Sanskrit by the Sanskrit Scholars. Mulla Ahmad also wrote in Persian a history of Kashmir entitled "Bahrul Asmar." The Sultan's patronage was equally bestowed upon the Brahman scholars.

The Brahman scholars and writers also held high posts in the Royal



**Mahabarta and other ancient
scriptures were tranlated from
sharda to persian & Vice versa**

SCHOLARLY PURSUITS



Badshah gave every encouragement to Persian and Sharda scripts. He ordered epitaphs on the graves to be written in Persia, Sanskrit as well as in Sharda Scripts, These are the living examples.

LUMANARIES OF BUDSHAH PERIOD

Maulana Kabir:-

A Kashimiri by birth, he was called back from Herat and was ordered to hold the office of Sheikh-ul-Islam or chief head Jurist (shariah) by Budshah.

Qazi Jamaludin:-

He was appointed Chief Justice for the whole of his kingdom.

Hafiz Baghdadi:-

Qazi Mir Ali Bukhari, Syed Hussain Quamani Raizvi, Hakim Mansoor wrote the books on medicine in Persian.

PROMOTER OF INGENIOUS CULTURE, NUMISMATIC HERITAGE

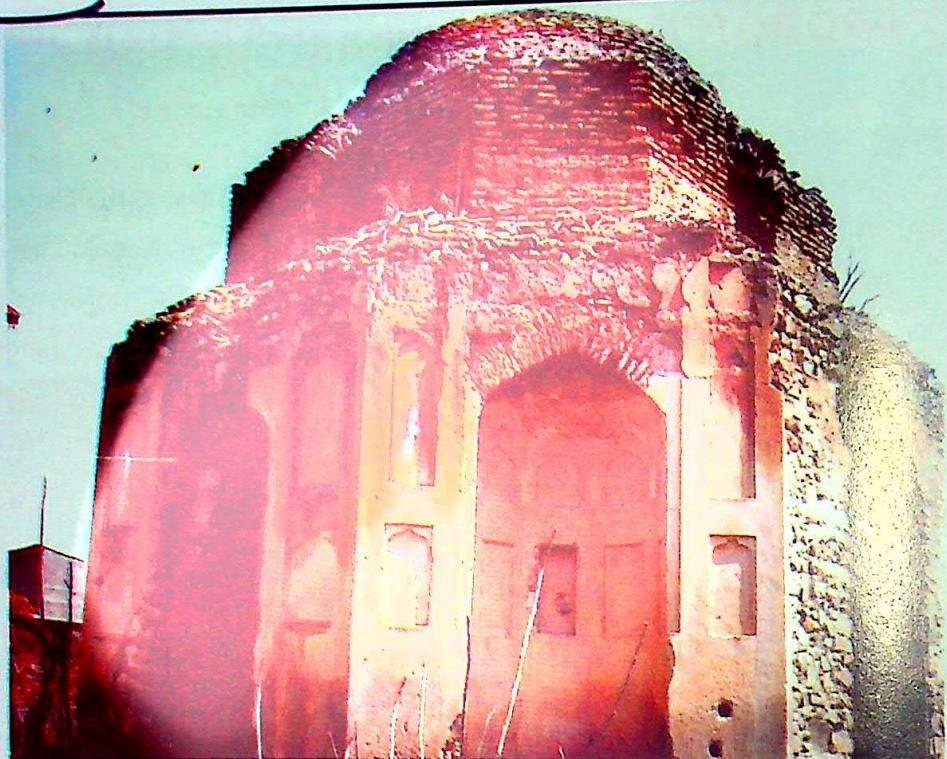
Budshah issued fresh coins of copper and silver of fine stuff. They were extensively minted at the Royal Mint House at Saraf Kadal. The Department in past two years was successful in recovering the treasure trove coins of Zain-ul-Abideen in different districts of the valley.



Obverse and reverse of the coins of Sultan Zain ul Abdin

IDEAL BUILDER

Budshah was virtually Shah-i-Jehan of Kashmir. As the later was having much love for art and architecture the former was much ahead of Shah-i- Jehan as far as architecture Heritage of Kashmir is concerned. Many important buildings, and townships bear witness to this fact. Some of the important Architectural Sites include, **Zaina Lank**, **Zaina Kot**, **Zaina Pattan**, **Zaina Kundal**, **Zaina Muth**, **Zaina Dab**, **Zaina Pore**, **Zaina Telak**, and **Zaina Gir**. Some of the villages given names after the Sultan Zain-ul-Abdin, do exist at present.



This site is at soura Sgr. Highway. Historically , Architecturally It is so important that it must take precedence over other monuments in the valley.

Budshah the great builder of Jammu and Kashmir state had built the buildings, a places and the maktabs where all scriptures of Persians, Sanskrit and Arabic were taught besides other places where the people used to worship. These buildings were multi storied places of worship too were built at various corners of the valley of Kashmir. One of the living examples of such *dumats* is in interior part of soura opposite to SKIMS. This is one of the *Dumats* presumed to have been constructed by Shahi Khan, the Badshah. All the features of this *Dumat TOMB* does have close resemblance with the tomb of Sultan's mother Mehra Devi. It is built of small bricks and wood. The Department has submitted recommendations for the renovation and unkeep of this deli plated monument of the authorities.

GENEOROSITY TOWARDS MUSICIANS

Sultan was great patron of music. Even though in the pre-Budshah period too music was very popular in Kashmir but he introduced here Irani and Central Asian musicians under his royal patronage. Many new Ragnies were thus introduced into Kashmir music. The principal musical instruments that owe their existence to Budshah era are **Sarangi**, **Sitar**, and **Sadtara** with hundred strings. Mulla Jamil, the poet musician was great expert in vocal music and possessed the natural gift of a melodious voice.

GENEOLANCE TOWARDS PRISONERS

Budshah introduced jail reforms which resulted in creating productive resources for the maintenance of prisoners in the jail. It was taken unfair to hold prisoners behind bars without any work and allow them to remain absorbed in idle gossip. Therefore, he introduced Prison related industries to reform the criminals by engaging them in occupations like pottery and made them to work as labours on public works. This policy was for the first time introduced in Sultanate period.

GOVERNANCE AND STATE-CRAFT

The migration is commonly undertaken by a section of people when circumstances become unfavorable for them. It was under the rule of Sultan Sikander, that some of Kashmiri's were forced to migrate from their home land.

his was successfully reversed by this illustrious King of Kashmir, Budshah. He took very strong measures and enacted legislation to ensure safety of migrants and ensured their rehabilitation. They enjoyed the best of facilities ,privileges and all amenities of life during the reign of Zain-ul-Abideen. This is why pandits of Kashmir proudly call him **Batashah, the king of Kashmiri pandit.**

HARBRINGER OF CO- EXISTENCE

Budshah abolished Jaziya and the cremation tax that Kashmiri pandits were obliged to pay. This was in

GENEOROSITY TOWARDS MUSICIANS

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patron of music. Even though in the pre-Budshah period too music was very popular in Kashmir but he introduced here Irani and Central Asian musicians under his royal patronage. Many new Ragnies were thus introduced into Kashmir music. The principal musical instruments that owe their existence to Budshah era are **Sarangi**, **Sitar**, and **Sadtara** with hundred strings. Mulla Jamil, the poet musician was great expert in vocal music and possessed the natural gift of a melodious voice.

BENEVOLANCE TOWARDS PRISONERS

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jail reforms which resulted in creating productive resources for the maintenance of prisoners in the jail. It was taken unfair to hold prisoners behind bars without any work and allow them to remain absorbed in idle gossip. Therefore, he introduced Prison related industries to reform the criminals by engaging them in occupations like pottery and made them to work as labours on public works. This policy was for the first time introduced in Sultanate period.

GOVERNANCE AND STATE-CRAFT

The migration is commonly

All this shows that Zain Ul abdein was not a king of the country but above of the hearts of the people. He won the hearts of all sections of the society. He made no distinction between any religious community, treated his subjects equally and judiciously. One of the best and most reliable Ministers of Zain-ul-Abdeen was Hindu Brahmin named Suaha Batha Budshah's popularity can be judged from this fact that even after centuries he is remembered with great veneration and respect by all Kashmi's alike .To this effect even today buildings and colonies like Budshah Nagar, bridges like Budshah Bridge and public places Budshah Hotel were named after him. At this crucial juncture of history, the people of Jammu & Kashmir can safely rely on him for guidance even in every walk of modern life. He symbolizes the essence of Kashmir culture i.e. unity in diversity, tolerance and co-existence.

Ghulam Nabi Azad



CHIEF MINISTER
Jammu and Kashmir
Srinagar

Message

The world Heritage week is being celebrated with effect from 19th to 25th of November 2006 to sensitize the people about the importance of preservation of our culture. The three regions of our state represent a mosaic of very diverse, ancient and rich culture.

I compliment the department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums for organizing various activities as part of the celebrations of the World Heritage Week to underscore the importance of our rich cultural heritage. I take this opportunity to appeal to the general public to respect our cultural heritage and ensure that no damage is allowed to be cause to the repositories of our heritage which include Museums and Monuments.

I wish the organizers of this World Heritage Week Success.

DIP-J: 765-P

(Ghulam Nabi Azad)

A.K.Angurana (IAS)
Principal Secretary to Govt.
Higher & Technical Education
Dept. Jammu.

Message

The world Heritage Week is being celebrated through out the globe to bring out the importance of cultural heritage and its preservation for the posterity.

The Jammu and Kashmir State has a great legacy and noble traditions, spanning five thousand years of civilized life, earliest written history, magnificent monuments, ancient shrines, temples mosques, churches, gurdwaras, monasteries etc. which speak volumes about its diverse cultural heritage. All the three regions of the State viz Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh are known for their cultural treasures and natural beauty which has attracted great travelers, historians and scholars since times immemorial from outside.

It is heartening that the Department of Archives, archaeology and Museums is organizing various activities during the World Heritage Week commencing from Nov.19th, 2006 to highlight the importance of our cultural wealth and its preservation for posterity. While lot of steps are being taken by the Govt. to preserve this wealth in its original form, the participation & cooperation of every citizen is equally important in this noble mission.

I wish the Department of Archives, Archeology and Museums great success in its endeavours.

DIP-J:765-P
Dt 18-11-06

Sd/-
(Ashok Kumar Angurana)



The Hon'ble Minister of Health & Education being briefed by Dy. Director about the Archaeological significance of Kutbal tiles of 1st Century A.D



The Hon'ble Minister of State for Health & Education Minister Peer Mohd. Hussain inaugurating the exhibition-seminar at Kutbal hill top on the theme "Treasures of the past"



Dy. Director Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir M.S. Zahid with, Mr. R.C. Agarwal Joint Director General Archaeological Survey of India noted Archaeologist Dr. S.P. Gupta and others.



Galaxy of intellectuals listining the lecture series organized by Department at Old Secretariat, Srinagar, in connection with world Heritage Week 2006

Media Feedback Comments
and
Appreciations
from
Historians, Intellectuals,
Cultural activists, Archaeologists
and
Museologists

के. चक्रवर्ती, आई.ए.एस
Chakravarty, IAS
Harvard

सचिव, भारत सरकार
Secretary, Govt. of India
सदस्य सचिव एवं न्यायी
इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
जनपथ, नई दिल्ली-110001
Member Secretary and Trustee
Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts
Janpath, New Delhi-110 001

No. VIII/1/MS/IGNCA/2007

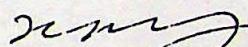
February 1, 2007

Dear Shri Zahid,

Thank you very much for your letter No. DDAMA-III-389/WHW/2006 dated 29th November 2006, and the brochure on the commemoration of 'World Heritage Week' held from 19th to 25th November 2006. The brochure offers excellent synoptic coverage of historical and cultural facets of the J. & K Culture. We would look forward to a suitable opportunity to join you in the conservation and dissemination of the priceless heritage of Jammu and Kashmir. I am endorsing a copy of this letter to Dr. G.L. Badam, who is from J & K, and is working with us as our Advisor.

Best wishes

Sincerely yours,



(K.K. Chakravarty)

Shri Mohammad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director
Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
Old Secretariat
Government of Jammu & Kashmir



The Secretary Higher & Technical Education Department, with noted Historian Mr. Fida Mohammad Hussaini, Dr. Abdul Ahad and G.M. Zahid



The Historians, Archaeologist and Ex-Directors during the seminar exhibition "Our Great Heritage Preservation a big Challenge".



प्रलक्षितिमपावृण

Prof. R.C. Agrawal
Joint Director General

फोन / Phone : (Off.) 23277080, (Lib.) : 23270061

टेली फैक्स / Tele Fax : 23277107

E-mail : director_ja@yahoo.co.in

पुरातत्व संस्थान

भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण

लाल किला परिसर, दिल्ली-110006

INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Red Fort Complex, Delhi - 110006

संख्या / No:

दिनांक / Dated:

2nd May, 2007

To: Shafi Zahid,

I am in receipt of your invitation card regarding the seminar organised on Sultan Zain-Ul-Abdin, "The Budshah" of Kashmir. Budshah is a very important figure in the History of Kashmir and your efforts to hold a seminar about him is a worthy endeavour.

I convey my best wishes

Yours sincerely

(R.C. Agrawal)

To

Shri Mohammad Shafi Zahid

Dy. Director

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums

Stone Building, Old Secretariat

Srinagar

پڑشاہ..... ولوں کا حکمران

حکمران کی دل و جان سے اتنی قدر خداونکی کی کہ آج بھی وہ ایک بھائی
بادشاہ کے طور پر یاد کئے جاتے ہیں۔ اصل بات یہ ہے کہ تخت و تاج
سنجال کر کر اکثر حکمران اقتدار کی مہوشی میں بہک جاتے ہیں اور اس
محاطے میں بڑے بڑے بیٹے بیویوں کا توان و اعتماد بھی ایک دم دم گھکھا
ہے، بہت کم لوگ ایسے ہوتے ہیں جو اقتدار میں رہ کر عوام کے سروں
سے زیادہ اُن کے ولوں پر بھی راجح تاج کرتے ہیں۔ بادشاہ اس لئے

زندہ ہے کہ اس نے تخت و تاج کا اپنے اور عوام کی توقعات کے درمیان
دیوار دبھے دیا بلکہ لوگوں کی خدمت گزاری کو تھبب اور بھک نظری
سے نادراہ، وکرپا نشودہ اور شعار بنا یا ردعایا نے بھی اسے بہر و چشم اپنے

لوگوں کی دھڑکن کی بادشاہی کے ایک ایسے ہر اعزیز،
مثاں اس تاریخ میں درج اور عوام کے حافظ میں مرقوم ہیں، اس سے
صاف ظاہر ہوتا ہے کہ اس کی شخصیت پر بندوں والا اسلامی اصولوں اور

شہری تعلیمات کا گہر اثر تھا۔ یہ ان تعلیمات اور اصولوں کی دین ہے
کہ اس کا شخصی مراجح عمل و انساف کے قابل میں ڈھل گیا۔ اس نے
اپنے طرز حکمرانی کو اسی مراجح کے تابع فرماں ہالیے۔ چونکہ ان آنکی

اصولوں اور تعلیمات کی اپنی اپنی افادت ہے اس لئے آج بھی بہتر
اصولوں کو اپنے انساف کے لئے پر نہماں خطوا فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔ بہر حال جو قوم اپنے
حکمرانی کے لئے پر نہماں خطوا فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔ بہر حال جو قوم اپنے

اصول کے بہترین انساف اور حقائی کو نہ صرف پا کرے بلکہ اس کو پہنچانے کا
عملی ثبوت بھی دے، کامیابی اس کے قوم پوچھتی ہے۔ باشپا اپنے
محسنوں کو باد کرنا ایک زندہ قوم کی علامت ہوتی ہے، البتہ ان محسنین

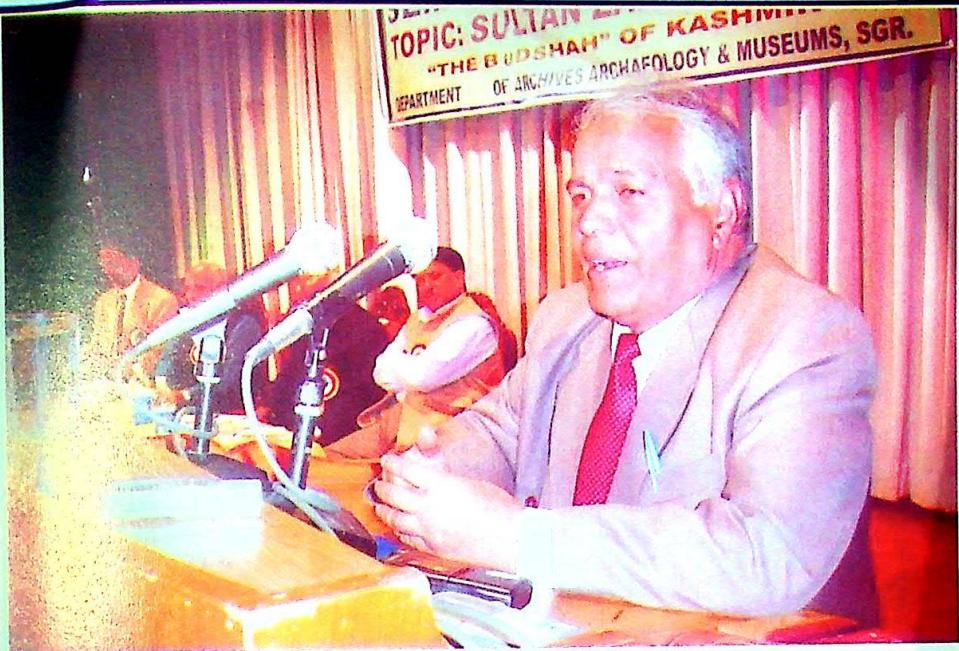
کے طرز مگر کی تھیں کہ اُن کا اُن کے تابع ہوئے اقتدار کو پہنچا، ان کی
خوبیوں کو عملاً نادر ان کو اپنے لئے نوں کامیاب اور پا اپنے انساف اور طرز
فرمودیا، اسی سے ان لوگوں کے فیضان کے استفادہ کیا جاتا کہ۔

شہری قوم اس وقت تاریخ کے ایک ہرگز اور فیصلہ ان پر اپنے بھرپور
محفوظ ہے۔ اُنلیں شہری صدیاں لگزرنے کے بعد بھی اس بہر اعزیز بادشاہ کا
ہام عزت اور محبت سے لیتے ہیں۔ اولیاً، کاملین کے بعد شہری میں جتنے

بھی سلطنتی اور حکمرانوں نے حکومت کی ان میں یہ رخصت صرف ایک
بادشاہ کو حاصل ہے کہ عوام کے دل و مان میں اُنکی کیا کہ اس کی
حیثیت یادیں زندہ جاوے ہیں۔ گواہی اسے ایک واقعی القاب اور عوام
دوسرا انسان مدد اور علم فتن کا دلہادہ حکمران ہونے کے خالے فران

قیسمیں پیش کرتی ہے بلکہ یہ اس بادشاہ کی اپنی حسن کا کرگی کا مظہر ہے
کہ پچاس سال تک جو لوگ اس کے زیر نیک رہے انہیں نے اپنے

کامیابی ان کا مقتدر ہے۔



Mr. G.M. Farhad speaking on the occasion of celebration of "Budshah Day"

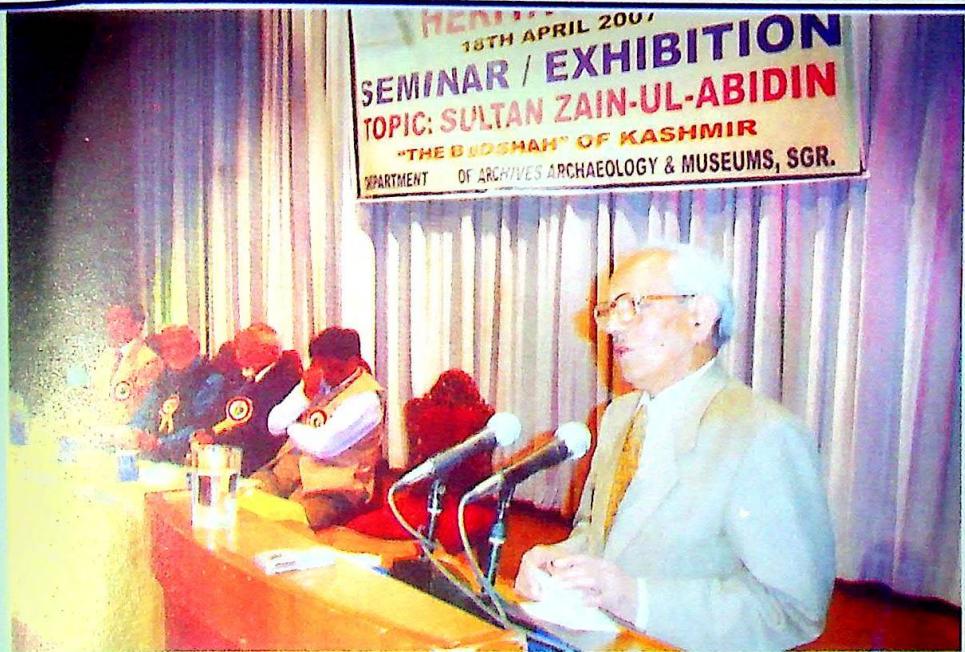


The Secretary Higher & Technical Education Mr. G.N. Mir releasing the Heritage brochure at the function

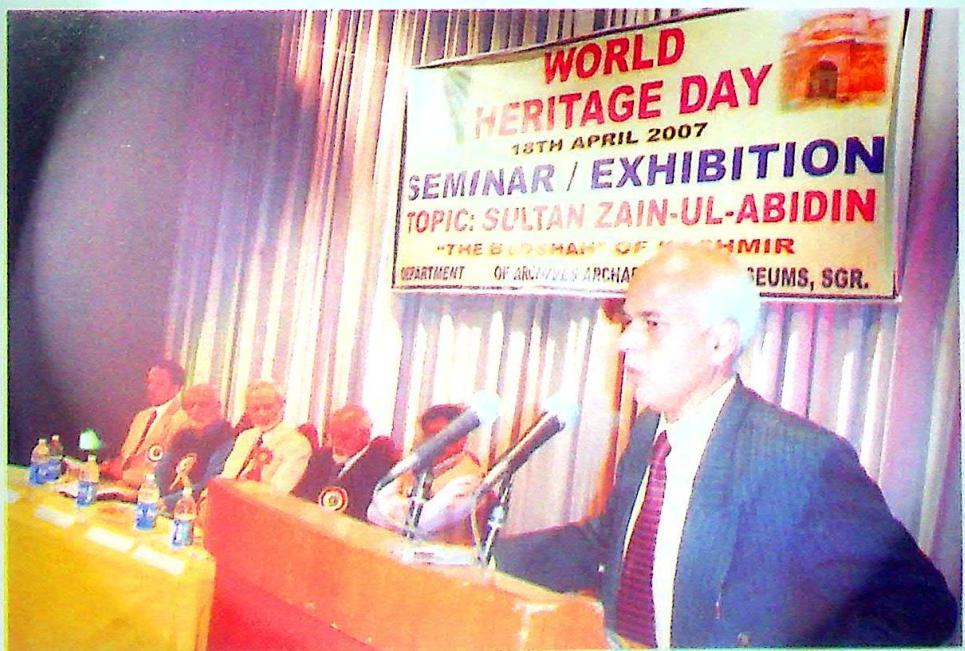


Gathering of intellectuals attending the seminar

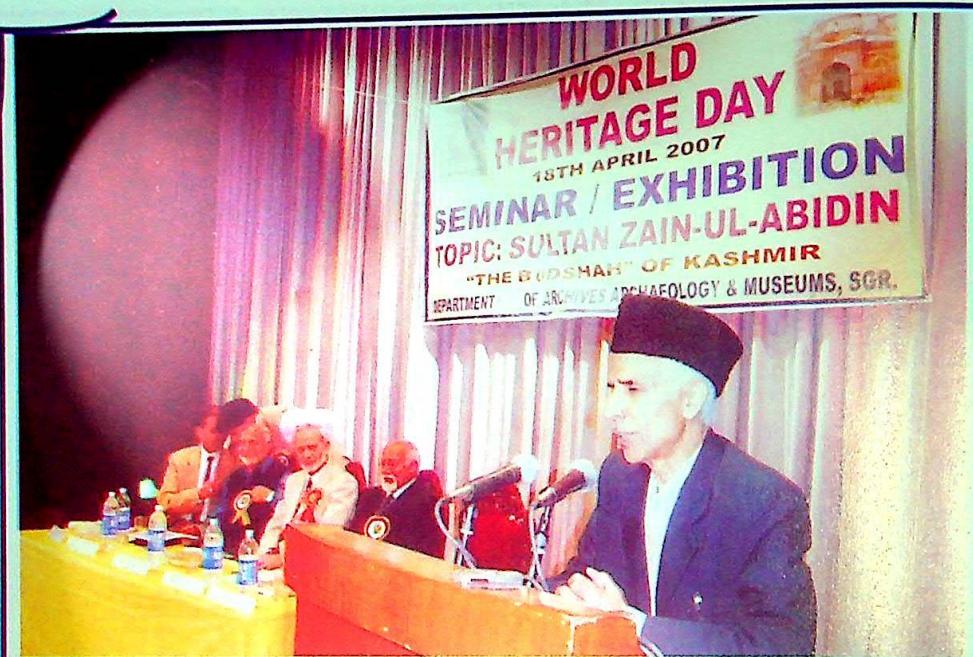




Dr. S. M. Iqbal, Ex. Director Archives Archaeology and Museums, presenting his paper during the seminar proceedings



Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Kukroo, Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister addressing the gathering of intellectuals during the seminar proceedings



President city citizen's council Mr. Zareef Ahmad Zareef is giving key note address about the preservation of built and natural heritage



Students attending the seminar



Pramod Jain
IAS

Divisional Commissioner,
Jammu Division,
Jammu

D. O. No. 402/117/Archae
24/18
Dated : 2/12/06

Dear Zahid,

The brochure released by Secretary, Higher and Technical Education recently in commemoration of World Heritage week held from 19-25 November, 2006 is very knowledgeable, illustrious and attractive. It cover all the varied ingredients of our rich cultural heritage in the form of manuscripts, coins, paintings, jewellery, excavations, etc.

I extend my heartiest appreciation and good wishes towards this initiative of releasing a useful brochure and extend all my possible cooperation towards any such initiative in future.

With

regards

Yours sincerely

(Pramod Jain, IAS)

Shri Mohd Shafi Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Achieves, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat,
Jammu.

भारत पर्यटन विकास निधि वि.
India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.

Scope Complex, Core B, 6th Floor
7 Lodi Road, New Delhi 110003 India
Tel: 2436162, 24361185
Fax: 91-11-24362015, 24361233
Email: cmditdc@theashokgroup.com
Website: www.theashokgroup.com, www.theashokgroup.net



परवेज़ दीवान, IAS
विदेशी विवरण, दिल्ली

Parvez Dewan, IAS
(Chairman & Managing Director)

CMD/ITDC/2006
December 18, 2006

Dear Zahid Shah,

It was such a delight to receive your invitation and also the very high quality brochure you have sent me about the new finds. I am proud that we have someone like you diligently looking into our past.

With warmest regards,

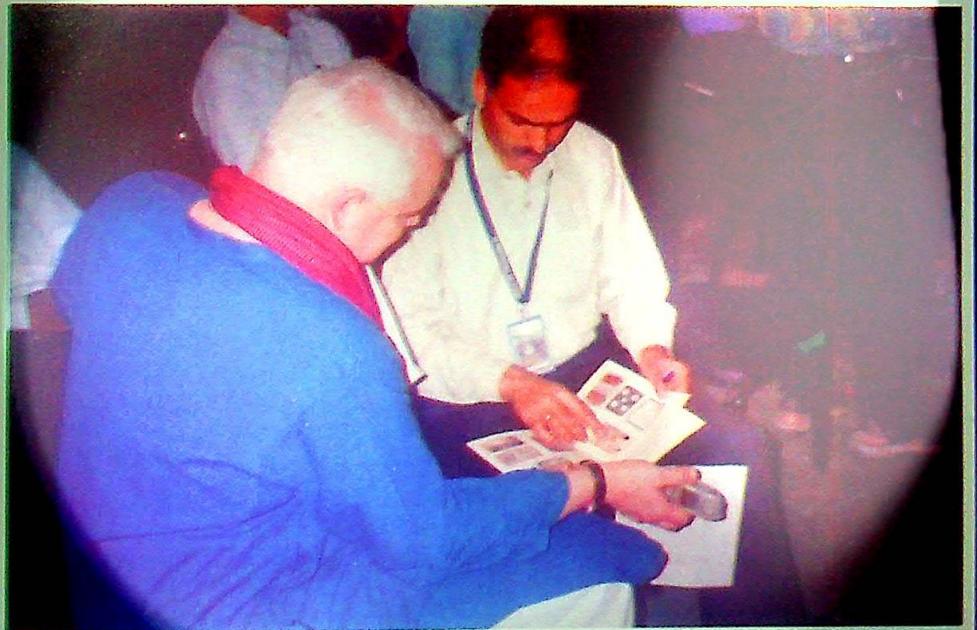
Yours sincerely,

(Parvez Dewan)

Shri M.S. Zahid
Dy Director (M.S.U. Baroda)
Archives Archaeology - Museums
Stone Bldg Old Sect
Srinagar (Kashmir)



The Registrar, Jiwaji University Gwalior (MP) looking over the brochure released by the department of Archives Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir



Professor Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, Director, Centre for South Asia appreciating the brochure released by the Department in which he has praised the rich heritage of J&K State



Mr. M.S. Zahid Dy. Director, Archives Archaeology & Museums, Kashmir with delegates of Indian Archaeological Society, Indian for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies Indian History and Cultural Society at Jiwaji University Gwalior (M.P)



Mr. M.S. Zahid Dy. Director, Archives Archaeology and Museums, Kashmir attending the 1st International Conference of Society of South Asian Archaeology at Mumbai University

Dr. A.K.V.S. Reddy



महानिदेशक, राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय एवं
कुलपति, राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय संस्थान
Director General, National Museum &
Vice Chancellor, National Museum Institute

D.O.No.F.DGNM-2/2006

December 8, 2006

111 DEC 2006

Re: Shri Zahid

Please refer to your letter No.DDAMA-111-389/WHW/2006, dated December 29, 2006. Since I was on tour, I am sorry to have missed you when you came to meet me in my office on 6th December, 2006.

I thank you for the beautiful and informative Brochure released by Secy. Higher & Technical Education in commemoration of World Heritage Week held from 19-25 November, 2006.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.K.V.S. Reddy'.

(A.K.V.S. Reddy)

Shri Mohamad Shafi Zahid
Dy. Director
Government of Jammu & Kashmir
Archives Archaeology – Museums
Stone Bldg Old Sect.
Srinagar Kashmir

Janpath, New Delhi-110011 Telephone : 91-11-23018159, 91-11-23018046 Fax : 91-11-23019821
E-mail : nmindia11@hotmail.com, Website : nationalmuseumindia.org

p31



Shailendra Kumar
IAS

SECRETARY
TO
CHIEF MINISTER
JAMMU AND KASHMIR

Srinagar Jammu
Offl. : 0194-2477408 0191-2545074
Resi. : 2483671 2457600
e-mail: sscm@jk.nic.in

D.O.No. 85/Secy/HCM/2006/06
Date 10, December, 2006

Dear Zahid Sahib,

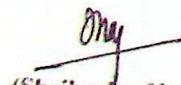
Your letter dated 29th November 2006 along with brochure regarding World Heritage Week 19-25 Nov.2006 at Stone Building Old Secretariat Srinagar has been received.

Thank you for sending the brochure released on 24.11.2006 in connection with World Heritage Week held from 19-25 Nov.2006.

The hard work put in by you and your team in the shape of brochure is highly appreciated. Kindly convey my best wishes to the team involved in its publication.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,


(Shailendra Kumar)

Shri Mohammad Shafi Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
J&K, Old Secretariat, Srinagar.

PRATAPADITYA PAL
10582 CHEVIOT DRIVE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90064
Tel: (310) 839-8547 • Fax: (310) 815-0192
E-Mail: chitpal@earthlink.net

August 20, 2007

Mohammad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director
Archives Archaeology and Museums
Stone Building Old Secretariat
Srinagar, Kashmir

No. PMA-111-389/WHW/2006-622- dated 29-11-2006

Dear Mr. Zahid,

I received your letter along with the enclosure addressed to the Asia Society, unfortunately it was forwarded to me only last week. I doubt if it would have taken as long if it had been sent **by air mail in Mughal times**.

I thank you very much specially for the brochure which shows how active you and the department have been in enriching and preserving the heritage of Kashmir, which I hope will also be more widely recognized as a result of the exhibition. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for all your help and cooperation with loans to the exhibition.

I am sure Asia Society will send you a copy of the book in due course. In the meantime I am enclosing herewith a small publication which I hope will be of some help to you in your research.

With best regards,

Pratapaditya Pal

Cc: Adriana Proser

J&K STATE GOVERNMENT
LIBRARIES & RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



Director

May to Oct. : Karan Nagar, Srinagar - 190001
Phones : Sgr. 2480238 (O) 2482038
Nov. to April : Kachi Chawni, Jammu - 180001
Phones : Jmu. 2540570 (O)

D.O. Letter No. D1/2865
Date 17/1/2006

Dear Zahid Sahib,

I am in receipt of your warm letter inviting to seven-day seminar proposed by you at Srinagar. It was really erudite and very academic interaction thus a great pleasure to participate in this seminar but owing to the short notice and non-extrication of myself from the official compulsions, I cannot attend the enlightening occasion. Kindly accept my heartfelt gratitude for your warm sentiments in inviting me. I, all the same, wish the opportunity every great success.

With regards,

Syed Mohammad Fazlullah
Yours sincerely,

(Syed Mohammad Fazlullah), IAS 17-1-06

Mr. M. S. Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
Stone Building Old Secretariat,
Srinagar.



प्रकाशित संस्करण

DR B R MANI
Director (Publication)

भारत सरकार
प्रशासनिक कार्यालय
पार्श्वीय पुस्तक संस्थान
जनपथ, नई दिल्ली - 110 011

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
JANPATH, NEW DELHI 110 011

No. BRM/Pers/2005-Pub
28 December, 2006

To

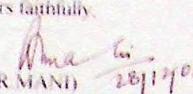
Mr. A K. Angurana, IAS
Principal Secretary to the
Government of Higher & Technical Education Deptt.,
Civil Secretariat,
Jammu-Tawi - 180001

29 DEC 2006

Recently, I met Mr. M.S. Zahid, Dy. Director, Deptt. of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar in Gwaliar in the annual conference of the Indian Archaeological Society and could see the brochure brought out by the J&K Govt. on World Heritage Week (19-25 November 2006) which gives the information about recent archaeological activities including new discoveries made in the State by the Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums.

I would like to convey our deep appreciation for bringing the information through a nice brochure which would benefit all. Kindly convey the same to the officers concerned. I am enclosing a couple of copies of brochures brought out by Archaeological Survey of India this year.

Yours faithfully,


(B R MANI) 26/12/06
Director (Publication)

Encl: As above

✓ Copy forwarded to Mr. M.S. Zahid, Dy. Director, Deptt. of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Old Secretariat, Srinagar, J&K State.

balraj puri

Karan Nagar, Jammu-180 005
Phone : 0191-2542687, 2543556
email: balraj_puri1@rediffmail.com
Website: www.humanrightsjournal.com

Date : 16-12-2006

My dear Zahid sahib,

I thank you for keeping me informed about your efforts to extend the frontier of knowledge about the unique heritage of Kashmir and, as per in the latest letter, about creating interest in it of common masses. I am glad to know that the Heritage celebrations attracted, to commemorate World Heritage Week, so many people of different walks of life. Though, according to you, the brochure that you have sent me highlights composite culture of the state, I find only one from Basohli paintings is from Jammu and none from Ladakh. It is, to be precise, represents composite heritage of Kashmir valley which in no way minimize its importance.

Though Jammu's heritage is not as rich as that of Kashmir, it has suffered neglect at the hands of the autocratic rulers as also of popular governments.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Balraj Puri

(Balraj Puri)

Mr. Mohamad Shafi Zahid
Deputy Director,
Archives, Archeology and Museums
Old Sectt, Srinagar.



8/1/07

Dr M.B. Zahid,
 Deputy Director,
 Archives, Archaeology & Museums,
 Srinagar,
 Jammu & Kashmir.

Dear Dr Zahid,

My apologies for not writing on time
 and telling you how much I enjoyed reading
 about your excellent work. Please do keep me
 informed about it.

Regards

Nayanjot



Indian Archaeological Society

(Registered under the Society Registration Act 21 (2) of 1860)

No. 61/IAS/1/Per/ - 3rd.

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Dept. of A.I.H.C. & Archaeology
Banaras Hindu University,
Varanasi

Shri K. S. Ramachandran
Former Registering Officer
Archaeological Survey of India
New Delhi

Dear Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Saheb,

It gives us great pleasure to congratulate your State for bringing out, on the occasion of World Heritage Week (19-25 Nov. 2006), a beautiful brochure containing colour photographs and write-ups on precious monuments as well as coins, manuscripts, bronzes and other works of art and antiquarian remains explored and excavated by Mr. Mohamad Shafi Zahid, the Dy. Director in the Deptt. of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Old Secretariat, Srinagar, who made an outstanding Powerpoint Presentation on these objects during the Annual Conference of the Indian Archaeological Society held early this year at the Gwalior University.

Since you know the activities of our Society, and me also, I thought it may be this opportunity to make a few suggestions:

1. The State can arrange an exhibition of the select art objects of the State at the National Museum, Janpath, New Delhi, in 2007 (Sept.-Oct.) to be inaugurated by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, who was a regular visitor to this Museum in the 1980s when Dr. L.P. Sihare was its Director and I was the Asstt. Director. I am sure, it will be a great event from every point of view.

2. Adequate funds and patronage may be extended to the Archaeological Exploration and Excavation work in the State so that the new discoveries are made every year and published adequately in national and international journals. Only in this way the world will come to know of them; after all, your State is so rich in antiquarian remains. In 1960-61 I had received my two months training in Conservation of Monuments, at Srinagar. Unfortunately, Delhi public know very little of the Cultural Heritage of Kashmir. Kindly do something about it we can. If need be, help your archaeologists and museum people.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

S. P. Gupta

Sri Ghulam Nabi Azad
Chief Minister, J&K
Srinagar

Copy to:

(i) The Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar (J&K).

✓ (ii) Sri Mohamad Shafi Zahid, Dy. Director, Archives, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar (J&K).

S. P. Gupta

B-17, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110016



Department of Archaeology and Ancient History
Faculty of Arts

The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Vadodara

Phone (0265) 2792436

Ref : 2006/2006-07/146.

Tuesday, December 05, 2006

To : Mr. Zahid
Dep. Director
Archives, Archaeology and Museums
Old Sutt., Srinagar (Kashmir)

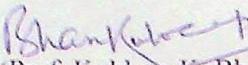
Dear Zahid

Congratulations! Thanks for sending the brochure released to commemorate the World Heritage week. I was wonderstruck by the richness of the archaeological treasures of our state. Indeed the State Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums are coming of age under your able directorship. Keep it up.

All the best for your future endures

Thank you once again for keeping me informed

Yours truly,


(Prof. Kuldeep K. Bhan)
Head
Department of Archaeology & Ancient History
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda
Vadodara - 390002

सूत्रधार

इन्दिरा गान्धी
राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र

INDIRA GANDHI
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

JANPATH, NEW DELHI - 110001
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Dr. G.L. BADAM,
Senior Consultant
Tele. 23388123 (O)
26492919 ®
9891672490 (M)

D.O.No. 1/GLB(ii)/IGNCA/2007

January 10, 2007.

Dear *Sri Zahid*,

Thank you very much for the catalogue which was published by your Department on the eve of the World Heritage Week from 19-25 November, 2006. Your department has done a wonderful work by organizing seminars, excavations and interactions in which historians, intellectuals, cultural activists, heritage lovers, scholars, students and common mass took keen interest, thus highlighting the composite culture of the State.

We do hope that same work will continue in Kashmir and many new facets of culture, which have remained in background so far, will come to light and will receive in times to come. I congratulate you for this wonderful work and wish you best of luck in your future endeavors with which we would like to get associated directly or indirectly.

Wish you a very Happy New Year and with best regards,

Yours sincerely,



(G.L. BADAM)

Shri Mohamad Shafi Zahid,
Deputy Director,
Government of Jammu & Kashmir,
Office of the Dy. Director, Archives,
Archaeology & Museums,
Old Secretariat, Srinagar (J&K)



Intellectual gathering of "World Heritage Day" celebration at tagore Hall.



The Students of Rahmania School Idd Gah presenting their song.



Noted Scholar Dr.Mufti Mohammad Maqbool, addressing the gathering on the eve of "International Museum Day" at S.P.S. Museum, Srinagar.



Ex-Director General Tourism Mr.Saleem Beigh speaking on the eve of " World Heritage Day" at Archives complex, old Secretariat Srinagar.



Prof. Ab. Wahid Querashi Vice Chancellor University of kashmir inaugurating the exhibition on world Heritage Day 18th April 2007,



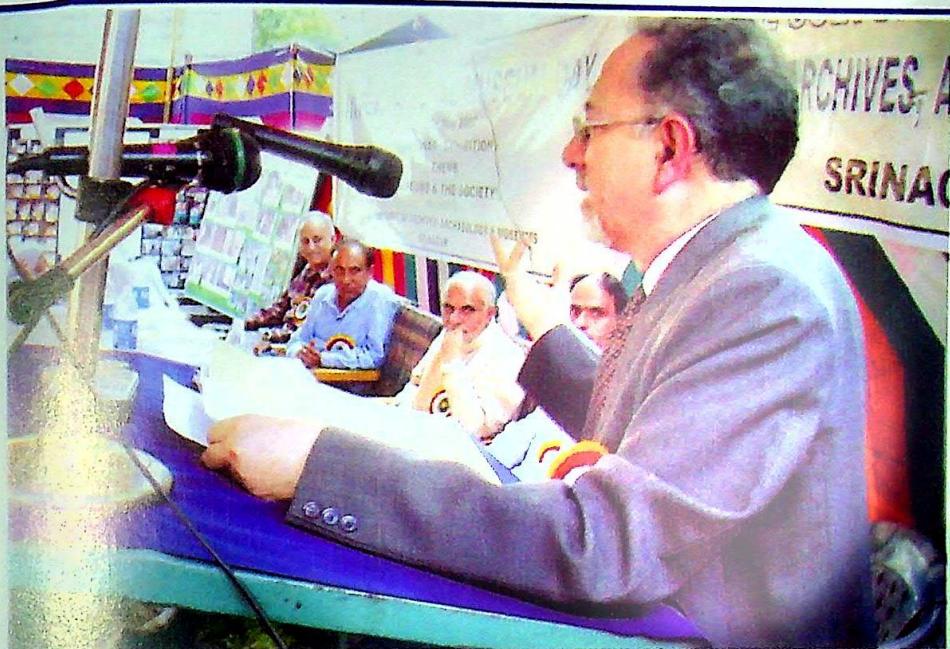
Prof. Ab. Wahid Querashi Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir & Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister Mr. Ajaz Ahmad Kukroo looking over the exhibits and M.S.Zahid giving brief about the importance of Archival Heritage.



Noted historian Dr. Fida Hassnaian addressing the gathering



A group photograph of staff members and Ex-Directors of the Department.

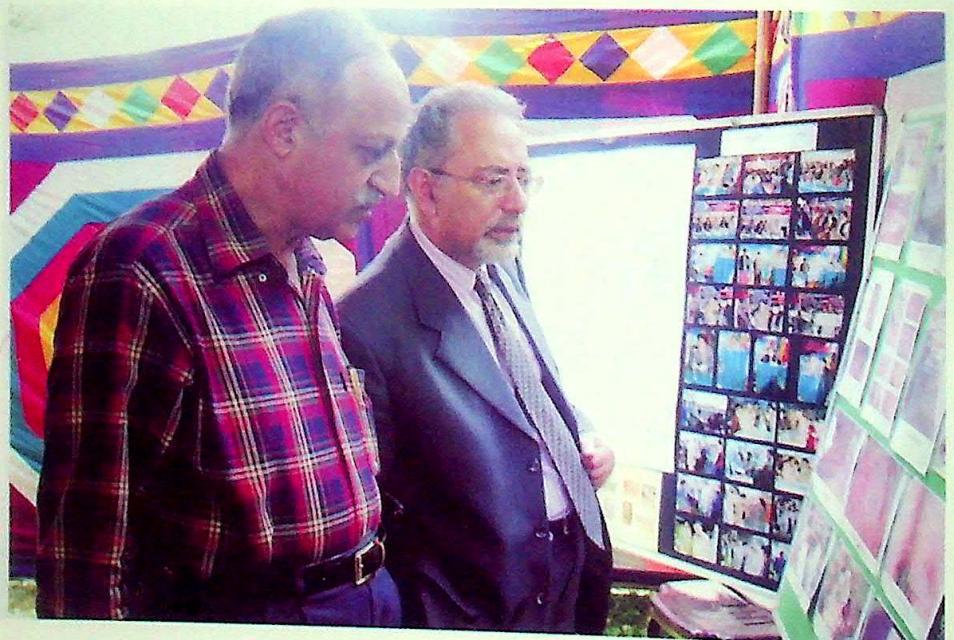


Mr. Mohammad Shafi Pandit (IAS) Chairman Public Service commission addressing the gathering





Ex- director Dr.S.M.Iqbal with school Children and staff members of Archives Archaeology and Museums, kashmir.



Mr. Mohammad Shafi Pundit (IAS) Chairman Public Service commission (J&K) State and Mr. Mohammad Ashraf (IAS) Ex. Director General Tourism observing the Photographic exhibition.



سری بگھ میں میز کم بلڈنگ پر تعمیراتی کام جون ۲۰۰۷ء میں شروع کیا گیا اسے دسمبر ۲۰۰۸ء میں پورا کیا جائے گا



Exhibition at Lethpora site. (4th century AD)

marq publications

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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October 17, 2007

Mr. M.S. Zahid
Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Deputy Director,
Archieve, Archaeology and Museums,
Old Secretariat, Stone Building
Srinagar

Dear Mr. Zahid,

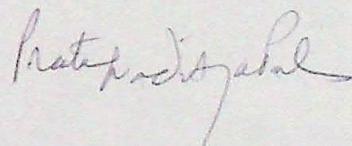
Thank you for your letter which your boss handed to me in N.Y. I am really sorry that the J.K. government refused to send the important bronze Vishnu mandala that you were keen on lending. Instead, at the last moment, they substituted the stone Brahma, which however, was not included in the book but the Vishnu was. What an unfortunate mess up. I still don't understand why the substitution was made.

I am also sorry that you could not come but I guess such is the bureaucratic unfairness one must suffer. I do hope you will get a copy of the book. 50 copies are being sent to Delhi for distribution. If you don't let me know and I will personally make certain that you get a copy.

I was very interested in reading the clipping about the seminar on Zain-ul-Abidin. I am glad it was a great success. In the book, I have written eloquently about him and in fact consider him of the greatest rulers produced in the subcontinent. I was a little disappointed however that the Seminar was confined only to Kashmiris. The "Badshah" should get more publicity. Anyway, I am interested in knowing if any books and manuscripts of his time have been identified. There should also be Persian mss. and qurans that belonged to him.

I am leaving Sunday for Bombay and will be there until Nov. 05, returning to L.A. on Nov. 10. Let me know in Mumbai if you have received a copy of the book.

All the best,



Residence: 10582, CHEVYOTE DRIVE, LOS ANGELES, CA 90064, USA
Telephone: (310) 839-8547, Fax: (310) 815-0192

Glimpses of Future

Exhibition organised to celebrate World Heritage Week

CORRESPONDENT

Nov 25 : The exhibition of Archives & Muslims organised today on Nov 25, 2006 as a part of celebration of world heritage week in this function was in the hands of historian Mr. M. S. Zahid. Ex-Chief Guest Mr. M. Saleem, Director of the G.M. Zahid part of the exhibition was Secretary Higher and Technical Education Department, Mr. Gh. Nabi Mir welcomes address was presented by Dr. Director of this department Mr. M. S. Zahid later on eminent historians threw light on different aspects of heritage regarding the theme.

Mr. G.M. Zahid, threw

bedded mostly in down town area of city. Prof. Fida Mohd. Hassanain threw lights on roots on our past, Mr. M.S. Beigh threw light on arising consciousness among people regarding heritage and Mr. Ab. Ahad threw light on Cultural heritage. Later on book release function was held by Chief Guest of the session Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mir. On the sidelines of this function inauguration of rich Archival and Archaeological materials which include Documents, Files, Sculptures, Coins, Paintings, Manuscripts, Decorative Arts, Currency Notes and Photographs of the monuments etc. was held which was inaugurated by Chief Guest of the session Mr. Ghulam Nabi Mir. In the second session of the function

seminar/panel discussion was held in which eminent historians, scholars, Art lovers participated. This Seminar/panel discussion was presided by Ex-Director of the Department Dr. Sheikh Mohd. Iqbal.

This exhibition was an attempt to showcase some of the unique & less known Artifacts, Documents, Manuscripts, Files etc. and was a visual depiction and attestation of the fact that the state Archives not only keeps and preserves Textual Govt. Documents in its repositories, but also exhibits archival heritage which otherwise generally eludes the attention of historians, archaeologists, scholars, writers etc. & main object of the seminar was preservation, dissemination & promotion of our composite culture.



اول اسکریپٹ میں نوادرات اور مخطوطات کی نمائش

1931 کے شہادوکار یا کارڈ کی کاروائی

1931 کے شہادوکار یا کارڈ کی کاروائی

۱۰۰۰ عاقی دریافت اور بمار امکنه آثار قدیمیا

کشمیر

کشمیر

حسن زید کیری

جولائی ۲۰۰۸ء

کشمیر

جولائی ۲۰۰۸ء

ورش.....بیگانگی کب تک؟

ماں یہ روزگار دن کی مناسبت سے رہاست میں آئی کل
ہیریت (HERITAGE) پروگرامیا جا رہا ہے۔ ہر کوئی بیٹی ہماری
روشنی ہر روز میں رہاست ایمیٹر میں ہے میں ہر روز
میں پوری ہر گھنیں ایک دلچسپی میں کی ہے اسی ایمیٹر کے
سر کا یہ دیور سر کاری اسٹریٹ پارک میں ہے کہ ہر ہمارے کام
کیلئے پیکاروں اور اس کام میں صرف ہر یہ توں یا اس کام
میں تو اس اکھر میں ہے کیونکہ تو ہم ہمارے کام میں خاتمہ کوہ قوم
خود کی جاتی ہیں، بھلی مدت تھی تھی اور اسے قائم کر کے
انہیں پھر کوہ جو جیات سے لیس گیا جاتا ہے تاکہ اس کے
سر کے ہمراہ نہ قوش کر کر کوہ کوہ کر کے انہیں ایک
منطبق تاریخ میں پہنچا جائے، نہیں بلکہ اس سر کے کی وجہ
اور اس ایمیٹر سے رہاست کو ہلا جائے۔ اس حالت سے قیمتی
نہیں میں اسے ٹال کر کے قفل ہمیں کی میثمت حاصل ہو
گئی ہے، لیکن پاہمی کے کھلروں نتائج ظاہر ہوئے ہیں اسیں
تاریخ کے مختلف ادوار میں قوموں کے عوام و زوال کی
دستائیں بھیم ہو کر گھوڑا ہوتی ہیں اور یورپ میں یا مالی تحریک
قلام میں ہٹے کے مال مقلات کو تباہی سائیں ہوتی اور اس
کے میرے میں لایا گیا ہے، مغرب اور اشیز ہیجہ کے نہیں
مالک میں تو یہ دیا ہت کی صفت کا ایک جو ڈائیک بن
گئے ہیں اور ان سے گردیں ہماری آمدیں ہوتی ہیں اس سے
جس نے کے مہمات رحمہ دشمنی کے لئے ہمارے

فرہاد ہوتا ہے بلکہ سیاحتی صنعت کے بانی زمروں بیتے ہوں،
ٹرائپورٹ، دستکاریوں اور دیگر شعبوں میں روگا کے دشی اور
بہتر امکانات بھی پیدا ہوتے ہیں۔ ہماری بریافت، مہاں کر
وادی شیخ، کہ جس کی تاریخ پر اروں سال پر ایسی ہے، میں ہمہ کی
کا ایک بہت بڑا خزان موجود ہے، جس میں تاریخی عمارتیں، قی
نوادرات اور تحریری مسودات شامل ہیں، مکن باقی دنیا سے
موازن گیا جائے تو یہ سیتے ہماروں کی ورثوں اُن کی موجودگی
کے باوجود اداشوں سے زیادہ خوب حالت میں ہے۔ دھماں
کی بھی ہے کہ تھوڑی ٹوکرے کا چاکے باہر میں شور بیدار ہے
یہ اور نہایت سر کاری اسٹریٹ پارے وہ نہیں ہے جس کا یہ
میکن ہے۔ آر کیا لوگی، آنکا وغیرہ اور یہ ہم کے نام پر ایک بھروسہ
خود ہے، میں اس ٹکڑے کے پس نہ تو اور مالی، سالیں پیس اور
یہ بندہ صورت بیانیں اٹھانے والا اور کے ساتھ گلی سر کاروں کی
ہائیکوں کے تین اپنالی اداوں رہی ہے، جس کی وجہ
سے ٹکڑے میں موجود تحریر بکار ہے اور اسے اپنی اسٹاف کے
مطابق تائیں ظاہر کرنے سے مدد ہے ہیں، جس کے لئے
دیگر موال کے سامنے اس کے سامنے کہا جائیں اس کے
کی خوش نشانی سے صرف ٹکڑے کیا جائیں اس کے
لئے اس میں میں دیگر صورتیں قدمی ترین میں ہم بے اہل
میں ہوئے، یادوں اور مسلم ایاد کے نام اور نامیں بھی جو ٹکڑے
تو جو اسے حافظت کیلئے ہے ہیں میں جو عبادت ہے تھا اس
میں جو عدیمی ہے اس کی وجہ سے اس کے سامنے کے مالے
ہمچھے گئے جس میں رہاست کے تاریکی ایسا رکھنے کے
چاکے گیں جس کی تیاری کیا جائیں تھے اس کے سامنے
کے تاریکی ایسا رکھنے کے باہر اس کی وجہ کا اٹھیں اسکا
لئے اسیں ہمچھے گئے پاکے دادی کے طبل و ووش میں قدم
آہدی کی دیا توں کے ہرے میں اس ایسا رکھنے میں ہے، جو ایسا
جس سے ہمچھے کھلا کھلائیں گے جو بیانیں اس کے باہم
کے کھری کھری کر کر جام کرتے ہیں میں ہمچھے کے اکابر
اور تحریری ٹکڑوں کا بھی ہے جو جس قدم ٹکڑوں کے مالے
رہاست کا ایک صدی سے گی زادہ اس کاروں کی رہیں اور
ناکیمی و جدید ہیں جو جو ہمچھے تاریخی اتفاقات کی عدم وجود میں
نہیں اسے ٹال کر کے قفل ہمیں کی میثمت حاصل ہو
گئی ہے، لیکن پاہمی کے کھلروں نتائج ظاہر ہوئے ہیں اسیں
تاریخ کے مختلف ادوار میں قوموں کے عوام و زوال کی
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گئے ہیں اور ان سے گردیں ہماری آمدیں ہوتی ہیں اس سے
جس نے کے مہمات رحمہ دشمنی کے لئے ہمارے

Dept of Archives and Museum holds function

GK News Service

Srinagar, Nov 24: The Department of Achieves, Archaeology and Museums organised a function on Friday as part of weeklong celebration of 'World Heritage Week'.

The function was attended by Prof F M Hasnain, historian Dr Abdul Ahad, ex-director general tourism M Safeem Beigh and G M Zahid.

Secretary higher and technical education department Ghulam Nabi Mir who was the chief guest on the occasion threw light on different aspects of heritage.

Zahid, according to a statement, threw light on the glorious past of Kashmir embedded mostly in downtown areas of Srinagar. By Prof Basma

also threw light on the roots of Kashmir's past while M S Beigh deliberated on the rising consciousness among people regarding heritage. A booklet was also released on the occasion.

On the sidelines of the function, the statement said, the chief guest inaugurated the rich archival and archaeological material which include documents, tiles, sculptures, coins, paintings, manuscripts, decorative arts, currency notes and photographs of the monuments.

In the second session of the programme, a panel discussion was held in which eminent historians, scholars and art lovers participated. The seminar was presided over by ex-director of the department, Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal.

Greater Kashmir

Special exhibition at SPS Museum In connection with International Year of Archives. A Seminar and exhibition

Special exhibition at SPS Museum
SRINAGAR: In connection with International Museum Day, the department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums is organizing a seminar cum exhibition at SPS Museum, Srinagar on Friday.

Special exhibition on Kashmir Archeology/arts and other artifacts on display. The museum have been asked to attend the seminar.

Heritage column

Dear Editor,

It was nice to read the heritage column Iqbal Ahmad "Sculptures of Zurhama" which appeared in your esteemed paper on 21/05/2006. As your goodself knows that the department has for last five years made some path breaking discoveries under my guidance which have appeared in your esteemed paper from time to time.

The wish desired by worthy author could not be accomplished due to the paucity of space in S.P.S Museum where we are having eleven galleries, viz about Archeology, Textiles, Anthropology, Geology and Mining, Numismatics, Natural History, Paintings. Due to Oct 8 earthquake and other factors we had to close three galleries in S.P.S Museum including children gallery and Library. So we could do nothing.

But holding of exhibition of rare artifacts excavated from rich historical Archeological sites mentioned in Kalkhana's Raj Taragni require enough space and enough presentation material including audio visual material to make our artifacts to speak to the public at large. The artifacts excavated from the sites are so beautiful in features that these have now been selected by the Asia Society, New York for exhibition of "Arts of Kashmir" to be held in New York from Oct 2007 to March 2008. Before this exhibition outside the country, the proposals are under consideration to hold the exhibition not only of Zurhama Kupwara but Bronze Images but other treasures of the past in near future which will become continues process in the state as that of Jammu Kalakendra.

M.S.ZAHID
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
ARCHIVES, ARCHAEOLOGY AND MUSEUMS,
SRINAGAR

Letters to this column should be addressed to Edit
Page Editor, Kashmir Images, Sharq Hotel, Lambert
Lane, Srinagar or mailed to
kashmirimages@hotmail.com

Greater Kashmir

SRINAGAR SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 2006

JEHLUM VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Shadows of a forgotten past - I

Findings are great and great is the effort behind unearthing some of the oldest and undiscovered relics of a remote past, comments M K Koul

Much has been heard about Malampora and Harango, where finds we came to know about Indus Valley Civilization. It was only possible when great archaeological unearthed the said Archaeological sites and were able to calculate the dates of pre-Historial period. After excavations of the sites we were able to know about the culture and living standard of the people in ancient generations. The students of History and physics are still making the research work of the social, civil, political and economic conditions of that period. A thorough study and analysis of the Archaeological sites lead us to understand the people living in pre-historical period, Indus Valley Civilization, Greek civilization, Roman, Renaissance and Egypt Civilization, are well known not during more than 1000 years BC, but the civilizations which were occurring the Kashmir dated 5000 BC, and were unknown to the world.

Archaeological excavations in the Indus Valley and Malampora and Harango, where finds were made, were made by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Archaeological Survey of Pakistan. The excavations at Kupwara, Lalpora, Zirakpora, Kupwara, Kupwara, and

at Marhamat and the findings speaks much of High-culture city, Society and Social system and art of the period during 5000 BC to 5 BC in S.A.D. The excavation of Lalpora are dated with 6th Century AD. The excavation and discovery of 1000 Metal Images from Lalpora, Pahalgam is dated 6th Century AD. The Excavation and discovery of Bodhi stupa at Lalpora Marhamat is of Kushan period. Discovery of copper coins of Silver Marhamat is of Kushan period. Discovery of copper coins of Silver Marhamat is of Kushan period which ruled Kashmir during 11th Century AD. Similarly discovery of Bronze images which include four armed, four headed Lord Vishnu statue and seated on Garuda at Zirakpora, Kupwara indicates the period when this art of carving and making of Bronze images was at its peak. Not only this the team has also unearthed the earliest Helium valley civilization which includes Buddhist period, Silver period from 1st Century AD to 5th Century AD. Muslim period dated is also accredited. In have also discovered some coin hoards of Muslim period dated 12th century AD to 15th Century AD which includes coins of our great King Zain ul-Abideen popularly known as Budshah. What has also been unearthed includes the Helium valley civilization which includes Buddhist period, Hindu period dated 5th century BC to 5 A.D. Muslim period dated 12th Century AD to 16th Century AD. These great Archaeological discoveries gives details of ancient civilization and it touches great historical importance.

The Discovery of Budshah not only speaks of ancient civilization but also speaks of Mesopotamia and Persian civilization. The tiles and Art pieces discovered speaks of a belief in Zedra and sun worship. In about the Budshah site and other sites indicate that Helium valley civilization was not only ancient civilization but the race was rich in Cultural, Art craft and moreover was civilized. The Discovery of Helium Valley civilization is a torch light for the historians and Archaeologists of this Kasmir to make more and more researches as the Paradise on Earth Kashmir has always been a seat of great saints, sages, thinkers, philosophers and Minded. It has not only produced great Artists Sculptors and Calligraphers but great Archaeologists also.

...To be concluded

Author is Chairman Jammu and Kashmir Kuvon & Ananu

Kashmir Images

SATURDAY JULY 10, 2004

Budget 2004-05

Archeological finds of Letpora

Dear Sir, I am the reader of the Kashmir Images daily newspaper and largely circulated newspaper. It is quite surprising to read a news item published in your daily on 02-07-2004 under the heading "8th century human head found at Letpora".

It is requested that the concerned sub editor was not careful while publishing this misleading news item. The truth of the matter is that no human head or skull was unearthed there. But some relic of evidence in the shape of terracotta was discovered unearthed. However, the datum of this archaeological excavation still remains a subject of discussion among archeologists and historians.

In order to set the records straight, it is pertinent to mention that in the second week of April, 2004 a team of officials led by Mr. Mohammad Shafi Zahid, Dy. Director Archives Archaeology and Museums, Srinagar went on a routine research survey to the historical site at Letpora.

At Letpora itself, Mr Zahid and his team found some strong evidence and accordingly started trial excavation work over there which ultimately yielded in the shape of terracotta material pertaining to the ancient period. The excavation under reference will go a long way in enriching our knowledge regarding our cultural heritage and different facets of our glorious past.

In addition to this, this unique unparalleled historic evidence will help us in understanding political, economical, artistic and cultural heritage of the era by gone. The news in this behalf appeared in almost all the leading local newspapers including Kashmir Images dated 14-04-2004.

All said and done, it can not be stated with certainty whether the terracotta in question belonged to the period of Raja Lalateddy (8th Cen AD) or some other period. The authenticity of the period still remains a hot and debatable question.

After having placed all the facts in right perspective, it is expected that a newspaper of the stature of Kashmir Images will only enhance its image in the eyes of its readers by publishing the news of excavation in its entirety and also by mentioning the concerned minister Dr. Ghulam Nabi Lone's remarks in which he lauded the role of Deputy Director, Archeology and his team, but for whose efforts, we would have not been able to achieve this breakthrough.

Mirza Ghulam Nabi
Malikpora, Pidwama



A document released on the occasion of world heritage day in Srinagar on Wednesday. —KT Photo/Imran Ali

seminar on Zain-ul-Abidin

KT NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, Apr 18: On

the occasion of world her-

itage day, the department of

Archives, Archaeology and

Museums, Kashmir had

organized a one day semi-

narium on the topic

Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin "The

Badaah" of Kashmir here.

A galaxy of intellectuals,

historians and academicians

were present on the occa-

sion that delved on histori-

cal importance of the

and dealt in detail the con-

tributions of Abidin in the

history of Kashmir.

Eminent historian of

Kashmir Prof Fida

Mohammad Hussain pre-

sided over the function

while vice-chancellor (VC)

of Kashmir University Prof

Abdul Wahid Qureshi

shared the chair of great

honour.

Giving the inaugural ad-

dress the deputy director of

Archives, Archaeology and

Museums department

M.S Zahid said that Kash-

mir has a recorded history

of 500 years. Declaring

Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin as "Akbar

of Kashmir" he said that the

Badaah has made a land-

mark contribution in history

of Kashmir.

VC Kashmir University

Abdul Wahid Qureshi

stressed the unparalleled

contribution of Zain-ul-

Abidin in the history of

Kashmir. He said that Kash-

mir has been a home to a

glorious heritage and re-

garded Badaah as the

best son of soil".

Fida

Mohammad

Hussain, the eminent his-

torian of Kashmir while de-

livering on the topic said

that Badaah is identity of

Kashmir. "Badaah is our

identity," he said. Hussain

said that many great rulers

in the history have followed

the path of Zain-ul-Abidin and are following it at present also. "Akbar followed the principles laid down by Badaah when he framed his religious principles. Even Pervez

Musharraf is following the

principles of Zain-ul-

Abidin," said Hussain.

The other intellectual

speakers who took part in

the debate were G.M.Zahid,

Mohammad Ajmal, Prof

M.A.Kaw, Ghulam Nabi

Khawal, Mohammad Salim

Ging, Zareef Ahmad Zareef,

Abdul Ahad Farhad, Haemat

Gulha and many others.

An exhibition about the

writings, contributions and

works of Badaah, besides

the works of Archaeology,

Archives and Museums de-

partment was also kept for

the viewership of the par-

ticipants of the day long

programme.

Imperiled Heritage

'Kashmir has a rich heritage and this needs to be preserved', this epithet echoes in all small or big literary and cultural functions held in the state. There are more than half a dozen government organization that are supposed to be custodians of the 'rich' cultural heritage but the fact of matter is that majority of these organizations ate as good as dead. It is ironical that any of these organization when revived by some enterprising officer interested in the promoting culture of the state he is shifted from that organization and another officer who has neither aptitude and nor inclination for running the department is pitchforked from a bulging list of administrative officers. There seems to be a deep conspiracy in neglecting the departments that have been set up for preservation of heritage of the state and promotion of culture. One of the glaring examples of neglect is the department of archives, archeology and museums. During the feudal rule this department was considered as one of the important departments. The autocratic ruler of the state took a very keen interest in the development of and it was for his understanding of preserving archeological heritage that the state museum in towards the close of nineteenth century was set up in a his personal guest in the salubrious environs of Lalmandi on the banks of river Jhelum and an amount of rupees forty thousands was released from the state treasury for setting up and it was not only the setting up a house for the archeological finds that bothered him but equally he established department of research that looked after retrieving and preserving the great cultural heritage of the land. But today both the museum and the department of archives is in utter shambles. The intellectuals, academics, historians and media professionals

have been agitating and protesting over the criminal neglect of the organizations that are supposed to look after the heritage and culture of the state. The department of archives which is housed in historical building in old secretariat is worse than a dungeon. Most precious documents about the state housed in this building are at present endangered. The neglect of the departments came under focus yesterday at a seminar organized by the provincial office of the department in Tagore hall. More than a dozen eminent scholars, academics and historian who made their presentation at the seminar, where unanimous in asking the state government to save the archeological heritage of the state that has been imperiled because of the bickering in the department. There are sufficient provisions in the constitution for preserving the culture heritage and the states have been adequately empowered, but one wonders as to why still archeological treasure is endangered. Scholars expressed displeasure at shifting of archeological finds of the state belonging Neolithic and Paleolithic periods. It is shameful that the archeological finds from Burzehama, Harwan, Kotabul and many other places have been shifted from the state to Calcutta under the pretext that they were not safe in the state. The government instead of shifting these precious treasures from Kashmir should have created place for their preservation and safety. The people at the top need to understand that monuments were cultural heritage of humanity and their conservation was not just a management crisis but a socio-political responsibility. The government cannot escape these responsibilities, it needs to revamp the department of archives, archeology and museum.

Mythology is not History

And history is not mythology in essence

I am naïf. Little did I know that I had ruffled feathers and made earlobes turn pink till a grocer in *Maharaj Bazar* told me about it! I had not imagined in wildest of my dreams that my innocuous statement of facts that 'pluralistic and tolerant society was born with the advent of Islam in Kashmir and till then it was a caste ridden truncated society under Brahmanical hegemony' at a seminar on Shah Nishat or Shahi Khan Sultan Qutub-ud-Din (1420-1470) had made some intellectuals in the audience natty. I had said that we pronounce 'religious tolerance' as an icon of Kashmiri plurality and Sheikh-ul-Alam and Lal Ded as emblems of our plurality, then it is purely a concoction of Islam'. The grocer who was also amongst the audience of 'intellectuals' made me proud that no ordinary Kashmiri knows his history better than many of my literates' calling themselves as intellectuals. His curiosity in knowing his past and feeling proud about it strengthened my confidence that this 'tiny nation cannot be trampled down' so easily. He gave me inspiration to revive the debate that had been generated in the well attended seminar. I had stated that the 'medieval period has been 'distorted', 'contorted' and painted ugly by historians with jaundiced eyes and tinted glasses'. I had stated Sultan Sikandar was not a 'bigot' but in the words of Sir Walter Lawrence 'brave and cultured', 'a generous' person in the words of G.M.D. Sufi 'thousand times very much humane than Harappa and others whom nobody ever maligns publicly, so loudly and pungently'. I had said that he was more sinned against than his sinning. I had dwelled in detail upon his contribution in setting up universities and seminaries. I had (almost) appealed to contemporary historians who were present in good number in the seminar, to rewrite and not rehash Kashmir history which is full of inaccuracies and inadequacies. I had said that let us not parrot that we have a five thousand years old history that is demagogic. We are no demagogues let us come up with history based on facts and not in the words of a Pakistani writer, Musahid Hussain allow 'mythology pass for history'. There was need for chasing fiction from facts and delinking mythology from history.

I call *Rajatarangini* a masterpiece not of history but of literature. Like a good piece of literature it is facts mingled with fiction and myths woven in mosaic of tales of kings and converts. It is not history in the

tradition of Edward Gibbon, Thomas Babington Macaulay, Thomas Carlyle or John Richardson Green but an epic in the tradition of great Indian epics brimming with fiction and supernatural tales. Classical importance of *Rajatarangini* intact; how many of our historians have tried to sieve facts from this monumental work and rewrite history of period on scientific basis. How many of our historians in the tradition of Gibbon have laboured 'to examine and digest all the extant authorities, afterwards to select the material from immaterial; then finally to tell the whole truth long story, making each personage and every fact fall into proper place so as to give unity and perspective to the whole'. It is painful to state, but it is a stark truth, none of our contemporary historians have made an effort to put events in the right perspective. Most of the historians have only retold the stories already told without even changing their punctuations. It

they perhaps have an agenda of giving bad name to the people who continue to live in the valley. But question arises that is this war to be taken lying low? Our historians and academicians owe a responsibility to their conscience, if not to the people. These distorters calling themselves as 'cyber warriors' used to be fought back - fought back with full force. More than individuals it is the institutions that have to fight back them. The University of Kashmir has four institutions dedicated to history- the Post-graduate Department of History, Institute of Central Asian Studies, *Märkaz-i-Noor* and Institute of Kashmir Studies but hardly any of these departments has a website of its own. There is no 'alien' in these departments who are generally blamed teachers for all ills in the university. They are headed by aborigines- true odd men are political appointees but majority have a strong academic background. It is bounden duty of these institutions to counter this 'cyber war' against Kashmir history.

The institutions may or may not wake up but our historian's octogenarians and young need to introspect to find out if they are honest to their land and people. Majority of researchers are only rehashing old history and not rewriting history based on primary sources. There is no dearth of primary sources, Kashmir has the highest number of manuscripts in Persian, Arabic, Sharada and Sanskrit but how many of our scholars are using these manuscripts. It is not the medieval history that needs to be re-written but our contemporary history- the history of our struggle against autocratic rule has been distorted. It has suffered the same bias as the medieval history. Even most progressive historians Prithi Nath Basu could not escape this bias. He too has been subservient to dictates while writing history of Freedom Struggle in Kashmir by ignoring even dismissing the struggle of the Muslim Conference from 1931 to 1938 and beyond in a paragraph.

There is a lesson for my historians in the achievements of William Dalrymple. During his fifteen years stay in India he gave three great books about Mughal period entitled *City of Djinns, the White Mughals* and *The Last Mughal*. If a Scot who fell in love with old Delhi and took world on an odyssey to Mughal India, why cannot our historians fall in love with their own land and give world an unbiased history of Kashmir to the world.

PUNCHLINE

By Z.G. MUHAMMAD

is not only distortions but lies about medieval history of Kashmir that are being internationalized: a section of Kashmiri society has gone flaky and they are engaged in putting all kinds of lies about medieval Kashmir based on biased histories on website. It is true by doing so they do no honor to themselves but bring disrepute to Kashmir history. It was shocking for me that scholar from New Delhi doing a book on Kashmir for one of the leading publishers in India with chain of outlets all over the world had assimilated all the muck dispensed to the world through these websites and framed his opinion about medieval and recent Kashmir history on the bases of faulty dashed out through these websites.

My estranged friends living a comfortable life away from dust and heat of plains or statistics gunters of valley in world's best metropolises are busy in falsifying truths about their own motherland- the land that has cradled and named them. They have concocted stories and contorted history. It is not medieval history that is painted murky- they have coined all derogatory words for the resistance movement started by Kashmiris in 1931. These distortions and falsification based on histories written by their forefathers they call as 'cyber war'. This war is against whom? And what has prompted these people to unleash this war? I have no answer for these questions.

51st YEAR OF PUBLICATION



SATURDAY 4TH MAY 2003

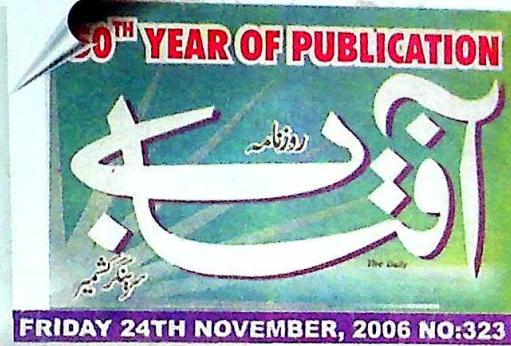


ماں یوم میوزیم یہ طالب ہاں کم رکھے گئے اس سے چانچے کافر سے دکھو دیتے

ماں یوم میوزیم

عالیٰ یوم میوزیم کا انعقاد

طلیور طالیٹ نے رجھی کا مظاہر کیا
رہا ہو یوم میوزیم کے طلب میں ملکہ نہ
کر رہا ہے اپنے الیکٹریکیں پر گلہیں
نمایہ کر رہا ہے اپنے احتمام کیا کیا تھیں
مدد مرد ہجھے بھی میں بیکھری
کس نکی سر ہو گیا جیسا کہ
مدد مرد ہجھے کے کھلے اہل کی کیا تھا
ریتھی کی خدمت کیا کھلے اہل کیا تھا
میں کچھ کچھ مدد مرد کو تھب میں سے
جس کو دم کی کے میں کے کے کے کے
مدد مرد مدد مرد (بدلی مٹپر)



FRIDAY 24TH NOVEMBER, 2006 NO:323

تہذیبی روشن متعلق تاریخی اور

نلاش جاری رکھی جا رہی ہے

سر پنگارا دلہلہ بہری شیخ و یک کے سلسلے میں جگہ آر کے
میوزیز یم کی جانب سے آر کا یو ہی بہری کا ورسرینگر
ایک فون فناش کا اہتمام کیا تھا۔ جس میں پہاں کے
تندیب قمن، شفاقت، نوادرات، عجائبات کی بھرپور
عکائی کی گئی تھیں میں مختلف زمانوں سے
معماقی کتابیں اور دیگر دستاویزات بھی رہی گئی
تھیں۔ اس موقع پر منعقدہ تقریب سے خطاب
کرتے ہوئے آر کا یو ہی دیوز یم نے ذی میڈیا اور یکش
محمد شفیق زادہ نے کہا کہ آر کا یو ہی جگہ آثار دریور کو
سماں ہی خداویں رہا نہیں (حاری ٹھنگے) (سر)

تہذیبی ورثوں

نسلوں کے لئے محفوظ رکھنے کے لئے اکٹ کلیدی
روں والا کر رہا تھا جوں نے کہا کہ مکمل تی جانب
سے رہاست کے تینوں خطلوں جوں، شیروں والدیخ
میں آگاہ رہ دیتے کی حاجت سے متعلق محفوظ خانے
برادر گرم عمل ہے جب کہ مکمل یہاں تہذیبی درشیوں
سے متعلق میری تیاری تھی اور کی تلاش میں ہے انہوں
نے کہا کہ مکمل کے تحقیق و تجزی کی بدولت 2004ء
میں اُس تو رسمی مقام کو معرفت کیا گی جس کا ترکرہ
پڑھتے ہوئے نے اپنی شہر و آفاق تصنیف راج ترقی
میں کیا تھا۔



2006.25

آر کا ویز ڈیارٹمنٹ میں ثقافتی ورثے کی نمائش اور کھنڈار کا انعقاد

THE KASHMIR TIMES, JAMMU
Saturday, May 19, 2007

Seminar on museums held in Srinagar

KT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, May 18

Highlighting the importance of museums in the society, and their role in education and other spheres of life, the department of Archives Archaeology and Museums (AAM) today organized a seminar cum exhibition at Shri Pratap Singh (SPS) Museum, here today.

The seminar entitled "Museum and Society" was organized to mark the international museum day. The function was inaugurated by Mohammad Shahi Pandit, chairman, Public Service Commission (PSC).

Appealing the historians and other interested people of the state to come forward and help the department for uplifting their objectives of restoring the lost glory of rich heritage and in a way make people aware about museums and their role, deputy director of AAM, M S Zahid said that the objective of today's seminar

cum-exhibition is to educate the people of valley about the role of museums in society and in the sphere of lives of people.

"Today I take this opportunity to apprise all classes of society about the difficulties the department is facing. We are suffering from the want of technical, and other sources which could have enabled us to preserve what so ever is left now," said Zahid, in his speech.

Speaking on the occasion, the noted historian of Kashmir, Z G Mohiuddin suggested the authorities to declare three oldest religious sites - Khanqah-e-Mohabbat, Mughal Manzil and Mirwaz Manzil - as "state protected sites".

The function was attended by a galaxy of historians, intellectuals and other concerned people. More than 2000 school children also participated in the seminar. An exhibition on art, excavations and archaeology of Kashmir was also organized.

Kashmir Images

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

Kutbal findings - kudos to Dy Dir Archaeology

Dear Editor,

Apropos news items titled "Kutbal to be developed as heritage site" appearing in your esteemed daily Kashmir Images dated 20.09.2005. People in general and the Scholars, Academicians, Historians and Archaeologist in particular got electric at this path breaking excavation of same hitherto unknown civilization in the Kutbal of Shangus Block. The excavation is an indicator of the fact that there are treasures beneath our soil and need is to explore the same and introduce the rich and glorious heritage of our land to the people.

The people who turn indifferent towards their heritage are in the final analysis losers. Heritage connects people with past and gives them a reason to feel proud of what the past has been. Unearthing the glorious past is a noble mission and the mission needs devoted people who have a will to work and who love their place and people.

The special interest shown by the Deputy Director Archaeology and Museums, Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Zahid and subsequent effort put by him made this dream excavation possible. Inspite of all odds, the officer put his act together by organizing a tour of historians, archeologists, intellectuals and all the concerned people to Kutbal hills on 15th of September.

Being a keen student of history, I too had a privilege to be part of the entourage on 15th Sep. 2005. The trip also brought relief and joy to this sleepy Kutbal, Sheikhpora as the local MLA announced a series of measures aimed at ameliorating the lot of the villages. The local MLA Mr. Peer Mohammad Hussain who too was present on the occasion was wise enough to gauge the importance of this historic trip. Mr. Mohammad Hussain was gracious enough to ensure the local Gujjars population about extending Electricity, water connection to the otherwise neglected hamlet of Kutbal besides opening of a mobile school. The mobile school idea was floated by Madam Atiqa Ji of Meeras Mehal from Sopore, herself an academician, who too was present in the seminar.

This trip has also worked as a catalyst by connecting the bonds between local population and the administration. The devotion and dedication exhibited by Mr. Mohammad Shafiq Zahid, Deputy Director Archaeology in performing the assigned duties should decidedly make him a role model for the young officers and other officials of the Department.

The government on its part should also encourage such dedicated officer as such encouragement would bring efficiency in different spheres of our administration.

Dr. Mohammad Yousuf
Department of History,
Kashmir University

TO OUR FELLOW CITIZENS

We appeal in the name of our cultural glory.

To help preserve our heritage of antiquities historical monuments and manuscripts.

Did we lose any of these; we would lose a golden page of history, a glorious legacy of the past, a marvel of art and a literary accomplishment of a savant-ancestor.

Therefore would it not be just to protect our legacies of the past, to discover the hitherto concealed historic sites and even get the antiquities and the monuments registered without losing anything.

In the same spirit do we expect of the owners of antiquities and coins etc. to make gifts of the duplicates or to hand them over to us and receive compensation and appreciation. Manuscripts of cultural and historical value can also be sold to this Directorate.

Likewise authentic information about the existence of antiquities and historic sites and monuments will be greatly appreciated.

**Directorate of Archives Archaeology & Museums
J&K Govt. Srinagar.Kashmir province.**

VISITORS AND TOURISTS

If you wish to know the collective life lived by our forefathers, their ways, their art and their dexterous devices, and be introduced to workshop of human understanding as well as to study your own history of bygone

Then visit

**S.P.S.Museum at Lalmandi, Srinagar / Archives Repository
Stone Building Old Secretariat, Srinagar.**



OUR HERITAGE OUR PRIDE

BUDSHAH THE SYMBOL OF UNITY IN DIVERSITY



**Published by
The Deputy Director
Archives, Archaeology and Museums
Stone Building Old Secretariat
Srinagar Kashmir.**

On the occasion of the World Heritage Day

18th April 2008